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THE NEWSPAPER FOR MAIDSTONE, MALLING, LARKFIELD AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES

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## FOR GREAT FOOD SEE OUR EATING OUT GUIDE INSIDE

# CHEAT LIVED HIGH LIFE ON BENEFITS

A BENEFIT cheat stole almost £14,000 from taxpayers to buy holidays and cars, despite running her own business.

Caroline Lawrence, of Douglas Road, Lenham, claimed council tax and housing benefits after declaring herself unemployed.

The shamed 44-year-old was revealed as a fraudster when officials discovered she was breeding pedigree puppies for a living.

The married mother-of-five had squandered thousands from the busi-

■ BY ANNA WHITE

ness on flash vehicles and several lavish family holidays to America and France.

She had claimed financial help from Maidstone council since 1993.

Her payouts should have ceased when she started trading on April 17, 2002, but she failed to notify officials of her change in circumstances and continued to accept benefits until January 26, 2006.

Mrs Lawrence was due to go on a five-day trial at Maidstone Crown Court last month, but on March 1 –

the first day of the trial – she admitted eight counts of benefit fraud.

In court, the judge said: "You must understand that for individuals such as yourself, who are legitimately entitled to benefit, as indeed you were, once the claim goes bad, that which is left for others to claim shrinks as a result of your criminality."

"That is why this type of offending is serious and why, in judgement, it clearly passes the custody threshold."

"This is not a case where you were using money because your children, as an example, needed to be clothed and fed."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



## VAN'S THE MAN FOR FESTIVAL

Music legend Van Morrison is the latest act confirmed to headline the star-studded Hop Farm festival.

The six-time Grammy award winner will perform on the opening night of the two-day event at the Paddock Wood attraction.

He joins an impressive line-up of musical acts, including Bob Dylan, Mumford and Sons, Pete Doherty, Laura Marling and The Magic Numbers.

More performers are expected to be announced ahead of the festival, which starts on Friday, July 2.

To buy tickets, visit [www.thehopfarm.co.uk](http://www.thehopfarm.co.uk).

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**AGREEMENT:** Twenty six affordable homes will be built at the former Parkwood Tavern site

# Funding to help smooth way for affordable homes

■ BY ANNA WHITE

DEVELOPERS have boosted council funds by more than £4 million in return for planning permission.

The hefty sum was secured by Maidstone council through Section 106 agreements, which require applicants to contribute funding to services a development would affect – such as open spaces.

During the last financial year, which ended on March 31, 15 developers signed an agreement – of which all but one were for new housing.

In exchange for planning permission, seven of the applicants dedicated a section of their development proposals to be affordable housing, as well as financial contributions.

The council secured 683 new dwellings from Section 106 agreements alone – 297 will be affordable homes.

From the 15 agreements – £468,356 was awarded to open spaces, £596,357 was donated to education, the primary care trust (PCT) received £345,848 and the highways department was granted £55,000.

The council will collect a further £3.43 million when agreed pay days – referred to as a trigger points – are reached.

Developers can sometimes set themselves a deadline to pay their contribution, this could be five, seven or even ten years.

The largest contribution for the financial year was from the applicants behind plans for 114 new dwellings in Springfield.

The owner has promised the

council £179,550 for open spaces, £215,565 for education, £78,210 for the PCT and £4,000 for highways.

The education donation is split into four sections – £20,520 for adult education, £32,253 for youth and community, £25,878 for libraries and £136,914 for adult social services.

Organisers behind the development, which replaced the former Parkwood Tavern pub, in Parkwood, contributed £40,950 to open space and £21,902 to the PCT in exchange for permission to build 26 new affordable homes.

Vinters Park Trust was awarded £25,000 from a developer who has been granted permission for 142 new houses, including 32 affordable properties, near the site's TV studios.

Despite the impressive total of funding for 2009/2010 – the revenue raised through Section 106 agreements is 52 per cent lower than last year.

During last year a total 399 affordable housing developments were available – 102 less than this year.

The council's development control manager, Juliet Stringer, puts the decrease down to the crippling economic downturn which last year significantly damaged the housing market.

Section 106 agreements are a vital source of income for the council's budget and help hit housing targets without damaging the existing community and infrastructure.

The planning committee only grants permission for these contributions if they are necessary to make the proposed development acceptable and actually improve the area.

## Sheps raises glass to pub's charity efforts

A COUNTRYSIDE pub has been recognised for its charity fund-raising and dedication to its punters by Shepherd Neame.

The Walnut Tree in East Farleigh fought off stiff competition to be crowned the company's Community Pub of the Year.

Licensees Don and Glynis Cross were picked as the deserving winners for the award after they raised £1,100 to buy a life-saving defibrillator through bar collections and quiz nights.

The machine provides vital on-the-spot life-saving equipment for use by paramedics and community first responders.

The pub, in Forge Lane, is now a defibrillator station for the rural area of south east Maidstone.

Mrs Cross, who is already a St John's Ambulance first-aider, is having special training in using the defibrillator and has applied to become a community first responder herself, covering a two-mile radius around the village.

The mother-of-two said: "We are delighted to win the Heart of the Community award, and it's really down to the support of our customers, so a big thanks to them."

"They've helped us raise money for a defibrillator and are always so generous when we hold fund-raising events."

Mr and Mrs Cross were presented with their award at a special ceremony in Brewer's Hall, London.

## Decision time over gypsy village future

AN APPLICATION for a permanent gypsy site in small village is due to be decided tomorrow.

The proposal for a development of four mobile homes and six touring caravans in Lenham was deferred until tomorrow night's meeting of Maidstone council's planning meeting on the grounds more research needed to be done.

Despite six out of the eleven votes being in favour of the proposal, the committee's chairman – councillor Richard Lusty – ruled a noise assessment needed to be carried out at the site, which is known as Wheatgratten, off Lenham Forstal Road, as well as an ecological survey in relation to a pond.

An investigation into the agricultural grading of the land also needed to be completed.

The proposal was recommended to go ahead by a council case officer even though the parish council and 16 residents have stressed their objection.

The concerned neighbours argue the gypsy site will have an "adverse impact on the character and appearance of the countryside" and would not be inappropriate for the village setting.



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## 'We'll come down hard on those who flout the law'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

"There were luxuries that you purchased for your family, by reason of holiday abroad, which were expensive.

"Again that, it seems to me, is an aggravating feature of your case."

The benefit cheat was sentenced to 16 weeks imprisonment, suspended for two years, as well as a 12-month supervision order.

Steve McGinnes, head of

Maidstone council's benefits department, was pleased with the outcome.

He said: "This is one of our most serious benefit fraud cases to date and is a good result for the council."

"Dishonesty, when it comes to any form of benefit, will not be tolerated and this proves we will come down hard on those who are flouting the law."

Mrs Lawrence's entire overpayment has been repaid and

there is no loss to public funds.

Between 2008 and 2009, benefit thieves stole an estimated £900 million from hardworking taxpayers' pockets.

The Department for Work and Pensions last year caught 56,493 cheats.

If you suspect someone is claiming financial support illegally, call National Benefit Fraud Hotline on 0800 854 440.

# Is it a one-horse race for supposedly safe seat?

## ELECTION 2010

■ BY ANNA WHITE

THE election race is entering the final stages – with just eight days to go until you decide who becomes your next MP.

During the past three weeks seven candidates have been campaigning for votes across the Maidstone and the Weald constituency in the hope of replacing retiring MP Ann Widdecombe.

The contenders are fellow Tory Helen Grant, Peter Carroll for the Liberal Democrats, Labour's Rav Seeruthun, Stuart Jeffery for the

Green Party, UKIP party member Gareth Kendall, Gary Butler for the National Front and Heidi Simmonds for The Christian Party.

While the constituency is considered a safe seat by the Conservatives – having been held by the party since 1987 – feedback from readers of this paper suggests the result could be closer than first thought.

Mrs Grant and Mr Carroll appear to have pulled clear of their rivals and have been fiercely competing against one another.

The Tory hopeful has gained overwhelming support from the electorate thanks to her ongoing work with families, charities, organisations and rural businesses – key areas she has worked hard to help since she was selected in 2006.

Mr Carroll, on the other hand, has made a name for himself through his part in the high-profile Gurkha Justice Campaign with actress Joanna Lumley.

The Lib Dem candidate appeared on news channels across the globe when he and the Absolutely Fabulous star successfully persuaded the government to allow all Gurkha veterans to settle in the UK.

The two candidates share common ground as they are both in favour of overturning the NHS's decision to move Maidstone Hospital's consultant-led maternity unit to its new Pembury site and are both fighting to block the Kent International Gateway road-to-rail interchange.

Both have hit the campaign trail hard, going doorstep to doorstep in a bid to gain more support.

Mrs Grant has gone the extra mile, literally, to show she wants to help others by visiting community groups and completing the London Marathon on Sunday in aid of the Maidstone branch of Tomorrow's People.

The charity supports unemployed residents



**IN THE RUNNING:** Conservative candidate Helen Grant with her Virgin London Marathon medal

and helps them secure a job – something Mrs Grant feels strongly about.

She has a key advantage, with current MP Ms Widdecombe at her side, but the mother-of-two's place in parliament is not yet in the bag.

Who wins the right to represent Maidstone and the Weald is up to you. Cast your vote on Thursday, May 6.

• For more on the General Election race turn to pages eight and nine



**CONFIDENT:** Stuart Jeffery

## 'The only socialist candidate in the Weald'

GREEN candidate Stuart Jeffery believes being the only socialist standing for Maidstone and the Weald gives him a unique advantage.

Mr Jeffery, a trained nurse, thinks his political selling point will help him secure a majority vote by appealing to left-leaning residents, while his competitors share the middle ground and far right.

He said: "Having seen the list of candidates I am up against, I quickly

realised that I was the only socialist on the ballot paper in Maidstone and the Weald.

"While it is disappointing that the mix of candidates was not more spread, it does mean that there is only one choice for left-leaning voters.

"Since Labour entered the mushy centre-right ground of the Lib Dems and Tories in 1997, their support has dwindled and is now at an all time low.

"The Christian Party, UKIP and the

National Front are all to the right of the Conservatives, leaving only the Greens to represent a progressive vote for social justice, equality and fairness.

"Ecology has always gone hand in hand with equality and I am proud to be standing on a radical platform of job creation, environmental protection and sound economics."

If elected, Mr Jeffery would focus his efforts on putting a stop to cuts in public services and campaign for invest-

ment in jobs which would reduce energy, such as engineering, the building industry and public transport.

He would also campaign to keep core services at Maidstone Hospital, including the consultant-led maternity unit – which he is fighting to overturn in a cross-party campaign.

Has Mr Jeffery's unique option of socialist politics secured your vote? Make your decision on Thursday, May 6.

• Have your say at [www.yourmaidstone.co.uk](http://www.yourmaidstone.co.uk)

## Candidate in call to engage ethnic voters

BUDDING MPs should do more to target ethnic minority voters, according to a British-Asian Parliamentary hopeful.

Dr Rav Seeruthun – Labour candidate for Maidstone and The Weald – said it was important politicians showed a genuine interest in the issues affecting people from all walks of life.

His comments were made in response to a BBC Asian Network survey suggesting just over four in ten Asian voters intend to make the trip to the ballot box next month.

Dr Seeruthun said: "We don't engage Asians in the political process, and especially not the younger ones. In fact, we don't really engage any ethnic minorities.

"Specifically in Kent the debate about immigration gets ethnic minority people down. It's often talked about as being a bad thing but most of our parents came over here for jobs in this country, so there are positive aspects of immigration."

Dr Seeruthun grew up in this country but was born to parents of Guyanese and Mauritian descent.

Despite there being 89 Asian Prospective Parliamentary Candidates across the country compared to 68 in 2005, the BBC survey suggests only 44 per cent of Asian people are certain to vote on May 6.

## Party hopefuls to fight it out as they hit the hustings

FAVERSHAM and Mid Kent hopefuls will go head-to-head when they discuss their policies at a planned hustings.

The candidates are all expected to attend the event, being held at Queen Elizabeth's School, in Faversham.

The question and answer session will start at 6pm on Thursday, April 29, and will be hosted by Reverend Tony Oehring from the town's Parish Church of St Mary of Charity.

Audience members will be able to test the hopefuls' knowledge of the area, ask about their policies and find out what they would do as MP.

The confirmed parliamentary candidates to attend are existing MP Hugh Robertson (Conservative), Sarah Larkins (UKIP), Ashok Rehal (Labour), Tim Valentine (Green) and David Naghi (Liberal Democrat).

It is not known whether Hairy Knorm, from the Monster Raving Loony Party, will join them.

Since the Prime Minister announced the General Election the Faversham and Mid Kent candidates have been busy plastering the

constituency with their leaflets and posters.

Mr Robertson has been delivering his three styles of leaflets across the whole 150-mile constituency.

Residents would have received one of Ms Larkins' 5,000 leaflets and Mr Valentine also promised to deliver his promotional material to every home.

Mr Rehal said he is aiming to knock on thousands of doors across the areas and distribute 3,500 leaflets.

Mr Naghi has been spotted in Maidstone several times – once to launch the Liberal Democrat campaign and another time to support Maidstone and Weald candidate Peter Carroll.

It is likely residents would not have spotted Hairy Knorm out and about as he had opted for a campaign style that "conserves energy and reduces carbon emissions" by not leaving his sofa.

However hard the candidates work, it's up to you who will win the Faversham and Mid Kent seat.

• Let us know who will win your vote at the General Election on May 6 at [www.yourmaidstone.co.uk](http://www.yourmaidstone.co.uk).

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**SHAMED:** Deputy head teacher William Whillock (inset) pleaded guilty at Maidstone Crown Court

# Child sex abuse images shame of deputy head

THE deputy head of Princess Diana's former school has admitted possessing indecent images of children.

William Whillock pleaded guilty to four counts of possessing child sex abuse images when he appeared before Maidstone Crown Court.

The charges relate to "six or seven" photos graded at level one – the least serious category for child abuse images.

The 56-year-old, who worked at The New School, Sevenoaks, was ordered not to apply for any job working with children and was released on bail.

He will be sentenced on Friday, May 21.

Whillock, of Headcorn Road, Staplehurst, pleaded not guilty to a fifth count of causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity and it was agreed the charge would remain on file.

Claire Dury, defending, said Whillock was a man of "hitherto good character" and appealed to Judge Philip Statham to take into account aggravating factors in the case.

Judge Statham said: "I am keeping all sentencing options open in respect of the community penalties."

Whillock, known as Bill to colleagues, was in charge of child protection of the school until he was arrested on January 14.

■ BY ANNA WHITE

Police seized his computer during a search of his office. The school's chair of trustees, Stuart Crookshank, confirmed to the Daily Mail shortly after Whillock was arrested, that he and head teacher Christina Wells had called the police.

Mr Crookshank said: "He was in charge of child protection matters and had been at the school for 11 years.

"The headmistress received information, immediately contacted me and we then contacted the police. We took appropriate action as soon as the information came to light."

Lady Diana Spencer attended in the 1970s when it was a private girls' boarding school, known as West Heath. She later said she had "loved" being there.

The boarding school went into receivership, coincidentally, on the day the Princess of Wales and her partner, Dodi Fayed, were killed in a car crash in 1997.

But it was saved by Dodi's father, Mohammed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods, who gave a huge donation to keep the school running in memory of his son and Diana.

It reopened in September, 1998, as The New School, which aimed to rebuild the lives of "emotionally damaged" youngsters.

## Image released after Rolex thefts

POLICE have released this image of a suspected thief caught on CCTV at the same time expensive watches were stolen from a house.

The footage shows a white, middle-aged man officers believe forced open a front window of the home, in Marden, at 12.05am and stole two Submariner Date Rolex watches – worth up to £4,995 each.

A computer hard drive was also taken during the robbery – which happened on Monday, March 29.

Anyone with information is asked to call PC Tracy Evans on 01622 604244 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.



## yourmaidstone NEWS IN BRIEF

### Young road victim named

A TEENAGER killed in an early-morning car crash has been named.

Police confirmed the young man who died in the crash on the A227, Gravesend Road, was Ben Eason.

The 19-year-old, of Imperial Close, Kings Hill, West Malling, was pronounced dead at the scene.

He was the front seat passenger of a silver Citroen Saxo which crashed at 3am on Saturday, April 3.

Two women, both aged 18, and two men, both aged 19, who were also in the car, were taken to hospital but discharged hours later.

An inquest into Mr Eason's death was opened and adjourned on April 16.

No other vehicle was involved and police are appealing for anyone who saw the Saxo to come forward.

Call the serious collision investigation unit on 01622 798538 if you can help.

### Benefit fraudster caught

A HOUSING benefit cheat has been sentenced to 60 hours of unpaid community service to repay his debt.

Ari Dirwish, of Tovil Road, was slapped with the community order after admitting he failed to inform Maidstone Borough Council he had secured a job.

Maidstone magistrates heard how Dirwish's jobseekers allowance ceased on May 13, 2009, but he had continued to claim for a housing benefit until August 31 of the same year.

The court granted Maidstone council costs of £200.

### You're not yellow, are you?

TEAMS from across the globe have signed up to compete in an annual pie throwing contest but organisers want more UK contenders.

Squads from as far afield as Africa have pledged to take part in this summer's Custard Pie Championships with the aim of stealing the trophy from the Coxheath Till I Pie boys.

Last year's winning team has already signed up for the 2010 event, on Saturday, May 22, at their home pitch of Coxheath village Hall, to defend their title but would like more competitors from Kent. To enter, email Leslee on lesleewcpc@googlemail.com.



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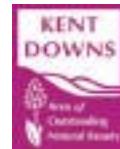
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FREE REIGN: Tiger Moths fly in empty skies

## Volcano sees moths take to the skies

As volcanic ash closed down UK airspace earlier this month the nostalgic "roar" of vintage Tiger Moth biplanes was heard over the empty skies above London Gatwick airport.

Thirteen classic aircraft from the Tiger Club based at Headcorn flew in perfect formation at 1,000ft over what is usually among the busiest runways in the world.

Among the aircraft taking part in the formation was the world's second oldest Tiger Moth which dates from 1933.

The formation flight was led by former airline pilot Chris Jesson, who explained: "The idea was simple: Gatwick was not operating for commercial traffic and it was a lovely sunny day, so we rallied the troops together and put a call into Gatwick Air Traffic Control to ask permission for the formation flight.

"They were delighted at our request and confirmed that we'd be welcome to fly past, providing we adhered to flight restrictions."

The Tiger Club has been famous for formation display flying and aerobatics since its formative years in the 1950s, when the flying club was based first at Croydon Airport and then at Redhill Aerodrome in Surrey.

It is now based at Headcorn and draws most of its flyers from Kent.

# Historic pavilion is brought out of retirement

A HISTORIC pavilion has been given a new lease of life by staff at a retirement village.

The feature point in Mote Park, which was built in 1801 as a tribute to the Lord Lieutenant, the Earl of Romney, was under threat from overgrowth and had been damaged by roots from a nearby ash sapling tree.

Even though the circular structure, which is surrounded with columns and sheltered by a dome, is located within the public park it now falls under the responsibility of Mote House – a specially designed campus for the elderly.

Workers at the newly-built centre for the over 55s became concerned that the pavilion was in danger of serious damage and so joined forces to repair it and bring it back to its former glory.

Shayne Browne, head gardener at the retirement village, said: "We are responsible for 11 acres surrounding Mote House, given its historic importance we couldn't bear for the damage to continue.

"The work needed to be carried out before the prime growing time as the roots would have become uncontrollable.

■ BY ANNA WHITE

"We spent more than 40 man hours sorting out the undergrowth and trying to bring some order to the vegetation growing around it.

"We liaised with the parks and open spaces department at Maidstone council and a volunteer from Friends of Mote Park came along to help out too.

"As you can see from the photos, there is a marked difference."

It is hoped the refurbished structure will blend in with the ongoing improvements to Mote Park being made by the council after it received £124,000 boost from The Heritage Lottery Fund.

The overall renovation project will cost £2.5million and will enhance the park's historic features, like the pavilion, as well as adding new ones.

The pavilion, built by Volunteers of Kent, was first erected close to the site of the original Mote House but the historic home was knocked down shortly after. A new building now sits at the former site, which is part of the residential village.



BEFORE AND AFTER: The pavilion in Mote Park is being given a new lease of life thanks to dedicated volunteers

The development, run by Audley, was opened officially in 2008 and boasts 86 houses and apartments in 450 acres of the public park.

A refurbished club house is expected to open by this time next year, which will offer its own restaurant, bar bistro, health and fitness facilities and beauty salon.

For more information about Mote House and Audley, visit [www.audleyretirement.co.uk](http://www.audleyretirement.co.uk).



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# yourlocalinterview

## QUESTION & ANSWER

### TIM VALENTINE



**Q & A**

The Green parliamentary candidate for Faversham and Mid Kent talks to **Anna White** about the day he became involved in politics, why he wants to be an MP and why residents should vote for change.

**Q** Tell us a bit about yourself and your family history?

**A** I am a professor of psychology at Goldsmiths, University of London, where I teach psychology and law. My research is on eyewitness identification evidence, which has involved collaboration with police forces.

I am a director of a small company that provides expert advice and training in forensic facial identification. Recent cases include Barry George, wrongly convicted for murder of Jill Dando, Abdulbaset al Megrahi, who was convicted for the Lockerbie bomb, and Omar Deghayes, a British resident formerly detained at Guantanamo Bay.

I'm 50 years old and I am married to Viv, and have lived in Selling for 10 years.

**Q** When did you first decide you wanted to be involved in politics?

**A** On Saturday, March 22, 2003. I had been on the demonstration against the Iraq war when two million people protested in London. I also joined a demonstration on the first Saturday after the war started. Both Labour and the Conservatives supported the war.

Although the Liberal Democrats had been on the first march, they did not protest once the war started. It was deeply shocking to know that none of the three main parties had the moral courage to speak out against an illegal act of war. So I joined the Greens who have the courage to fight for a fairer world.

## ELECTION 2010

**Q** Why do you want to be an MP?

**A** We have been badly let down by our MPs of the three main parties. With political influence for sale, the main parties cannot give their MPs the independence needed to represent the people without fear or favour.

**Q** If elected you will replace the Conservative MP Hugh Robertson. How do you feel about the possibility of stepping into his shoes?

**A** The financial crisis has torn the veil from the Tories' 'compassionate conservatism'.

They will let the market rip, and hope that the voluntary sector will pick up the pieces. It's guaranteed to deepen inequality and destroy the planet. I'll be on a different path.

**Q** Mr Robertson has been in the Mid Kent and Faversham seat since 2001, why should residents vote for a change? What would a Green MP bring to the area?

**A** Hugh Robertson supported the Iraq war, supported replacing Trident nuclear weapons, and opposed the hunting ban. He voted for immense human suffering, nuclear proliferation, and promoted cruelty.

He did not vote on the Climate Change Bill, and so failed to show any leadership on the

most important challenge facing humanity.

More financial chaos and environmental breakdown or policies that make social and environmental sense? More relentless materialism or a fairer, more affordable life?

**Q** Which issues do you feel most passionately about in the constituency?

**A** I'm passionate about tackling injustice. That means more jobs that pay a living wage, affordable homes and reducing fuel poverty. It means better education, free social care, and protecting our local public services.

**Q** If elected, how would you tackle these issues?

**A** I would campaign for a million new jobs, well-insulated, affordable homes, better public transport, and fuel security through investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy. The Green Party has a fully-costed policy to tackle these issues. If we can afford to fight wars, buy nuclear weapons and bail out banks, we can invest in jobs and homes.

**Q** The last, but not least, question - are you feeling confident?

**A** It is likely that the first Green MPs will be elected to Westminster at this election. Every vote for a Green candidate will push equality and the environment up the political agenda, and give the Green MPs a stronger mandate to fight for a fairer world.



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# yourlocalinterview

## QUESTION & ANSWER

### HELEN GRANT



**Q & A**

The Conservative candidate talks to **Anna White** about why she joined the Conservative party, how it would feel to take over from Ann Widdecombe and what she would bring to Maidstone and the Weald

**Q** Tell us a bit about yourself and your family history?

**A** I was born in London to a single mum and brought up on a council estate in Carlisle for much of my early childhood. My mother was a nurse. I attended Hull University and qualified as a solicitor in 1988.

Since 1996 I have run my own legal practice. It is mainly a legal aid firm centred on helping the needy and vulnerable.

I am married to Simon, who is also a solicitor. We have two teenage sons, one at school and the other training to be a Royal Marine Commando. We have a border terrier.

**Q** When did you first decide you wanted to be involved in politics?

**A** I have always had strong, clear views about the issues that affect most of us, regardless of party politics. My biggest motivator is seeing that justice is done, and seen to be done.

I also care deeply about the freedom of our business people to create wealth as well as strengthening our families and enabling social mobility.

My party political awakening came in 2004. My children were becoming more independent, my business had started to mature, with a good management team in place, and I was ready for a new challenge where I might be able to continue helping other people both as individuals but also on a broader scale. Politics seemed to be the obvious route.

## ELECTION 2010

**Q** What was it about the Conservative party which earned your support?

**A** I am a Conservative because I believe in individual freedom combined with personal responsibilities, free enterprise and a non-interfering state.

When David Cameron became leader of the Conservative party in December 2005 I was instantly inspired by his views. He has a sense of fairness and clarity of vision.

He promised to address gender and diversity imbalances within the Parliamentary Party and he recognised that there was a whole generation of people out there, business people, professionals and entrepreneurs, who wanted to work hard and do well themselves but who also believed in social justice.

I felt 'that's me', and joined the Conservative party shortly after, in January 2006, and applied to become a candidate.

**Q** If you are successful at the General Election, you would be the Conservative party's first black female MP. If this happens, is it a moment you would be proud to be a part of?

**A** I understand that being first and being different may be of interest to some people. If it helps to break down one of those glass ceilings, inspires others and enables them to

climb through too, then it's a good thing. But my focus now is to become the next elected member for Maidstone and the Weald.

**Q** If elected you will replace the long-standing Conservative MP Ann Widdecombe, how do you feel about stepping into her shoes?

**A** I don't think anyone will ever step into her shoes. She is unique. What I will seek to emulate, however, is the integrity of service that she has given, her strength of conviction, and her determination to speak out in accordance with her conscience.

**Q** If elected, what would you bring to the Maidstone and Weald seat?

**A** I will continue to drive forward the many campaigns in which I have been involved in Maidstone and the Weald over the last two-and-a-half years, which include helping families and businesses get through the recession and keeping a full maternity service, and other vital services, at Maidstone hospital. I will continue to campaign to ensure that all of our children have good local schools.

I want to see the Kent International Gateway proposals defeated so that our precious countryside is protected. I will carry on with the fight to restore our commuter rail services, I will promote our cultural heritage and I will continue with initiatives to engage with, and support, business people, farmers and people involved in the rural economy.



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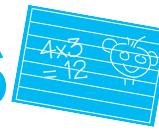
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## BREAK TIME

### Fashion show will help cancer charity

HEART FM radio DJ Claire Lawson is to host a student fashion show in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

The weekend radio presenter will entertain the audience at the charity event while students from New Line Learning and Cornwallis Academies unveil a range of clothes from stores in Maidstone.



The stylish pupils will be joined on the catwalk by teachers and staff from the NLL site in Loose and the Cornwallis Academy base in Linton.

As well as the high-street collection, the volunteer models will also be showcasing their own recycled outfits and will be joined by a special guest – Maidstone Town Centre Management's Bag Lady.

The Bag Lady, who wears a dress made from rubbish collected from the streets, was unveiled in the town last year as part of an initiative to rid the town of plastic bags.

During the evening, on Monday, May 10, guests will be able to enjoy refreshments and a raffle.

The prizes, donated by businesses, include tickets to a Big Brother Eviction Night, a place at Soccer Elite's June Soccer School, £50 food voucher for The Cock Inn, Boughton Monchelsea, and a £25 voucher for The Mall Shopping Centre.

All profits raised from the show will go to cancer charity Macmillan.

To book tickets, visit either school or call 07894423075.

# Word-perfect pupils are on the way to national success

INTELLIGENT schoolgirls are closer to winning a national spelling competition after soaring through their regional heats.

The three girls from Invicta Grammar School won their place in the semi-final of the contest, sponsored by The Times newspaper, when they defeated three other Kent-based teams in the first round.

Maidstone Grammar School for Girls came second and The Norton Knatchbull School, from Ashford, was ranked third place.

#### Amazing

The words the winners Sophie Aujard, Bethany Eves and Emily Hunter, all aged 12, spelled to seal their victory included pluperfect and coherent.

Sophie said: "It was great fun. The team were amazing and I'm very proud of what we've achieved."

Teacher Lynne Jackson was also pleased with the girls' success at the regional heat, held at Ashford Cineworld, on Monday, April 19.

She said: "I'm very proud of the girls. They were fantastic."

The talented team will now head to the next stage of The

■ BY ANNA WHITE

Times Spelling Bee in May and compete against 1,000 other schools.

The ten winning entrants from the semi-finals will then go through to the final stage at The Institute of Education, in London, on Thursday, June 24.

The Times Spelling Bee is the UK's only national spelling competition for schools.

It was started to discover the country's best young spellers and make spelling fun for all children.

In a message to the contestants, the editor of The Times, James Harding, said: "Spelling is important, but learning to spell can be frustrating, perplexing and bewildering.

"Our aim through The Times Spelling Bee is to help to make spelling fun. I'm very excited to be launching the 2010 championship and wish all the teams taking part the best of luck."

"I hope your school will take the opportunity to enter a team and fingers crossed that I might see you all at the 2010 championship Grand Final."

The spelling competition is one in a series of nationwide initiatives supported by Cineworld cinemas to help encourage students and teachers to read.



**SPELLING IT OUT:** (From left to right) Emily Hunter, Sophie Aujard and Bethany Eves

SEND your schools news and pictures to [yourmaidstone@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:yourmaidstone@kosmedia.co.uk). You can also upload your video clips of schools events on to [www.yourkenttv.co.uk](http://www.yourkenttv.co.uk)

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**HAPPY DAYS:** An increasing number of youngsters are signing up to join in the Scouting movement fun

# Looking for adventure

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

THE biggest membership surge in 38 years suggests the Scouting Movement in Kent is battling back against video games and the internet.

Just over 500 youngsters signed up last year – the largest increase since 1972 – meaning a total of 18,267 are now living Robert Baden-Powell's vision throughout the county.

There are also a record number of teenage Scouts in Kent, with the figure currently standing at 2,427 – about 25 per cent more than when the information was first collated in 2001.

And membership will likely increase for the sixth year running in 2011 if the current 1,000-name waiting list is anything to go by.

Chief Scout Bear Grylls said: "It's fantastic to witness such a huge surge in Scouting – the biggest growth for 38 years – and proof that Scouting is appealing more and more to

teenagers. Scouting is empowering, wild and fun, and offers so many adventure-based activities for young people and adults alike."

"My goal is for every young person who wants to be involved in Scouting to be able to do so. I hope to inspire even more adults to volunteer and help this happen."

The Scout Movement began in 1907 when Baden-Powell – a Lieutenant General in the British Army – held the first Scouting encampment at Brownsea Island, Dorset.

His aim from the beginning was to support young people in their "physical, mental and spiritual development", so they could play constructive roles in society.

Today there are more than 28 million Scouts around the world, with girls also now allowed to join.

And despite recent technological advancements such as video gaming and the internet,

the Scouts have adapted to change with successful ideas such as the IT badge.

However, the movement still relies heavily on outdoor activities such as camping, water-skiing and abseiling to draw youngsters in.

But despite the membership surge in Kent, the increase in volunteers is less than one per cent – well below the UK average of 3.1 per cent.

This means the number of children on the Scout waiting list is up by a massive 23.8 per cent from last year compared to the national average of 0.4 per cent.

Kent leader John Hunt urged other would-be volunteers to follow in his footsteps.

He said: "I absolutely love being a leader. I decided to get involved because I wanted to give something back to young people in my community, but I've really benefited as well."

"I've been able to transfer the skills I've developed as a leader to my day job, and that's been really important to me."

• Visit [www.kentscouts.org.uk](http://www.kentscouts.org.uk) to find out more.

## Steel rope reins in foreign motorists

NEW powers are helping Kent Police clamp down on foreign motorists who had been getting away with serious breaches of the law.

Since last year, the force has had the power to disable vehicles belonging to overseas visitors if they can't pay on-the-spot fines.

Between April, 2009, and March, 2010, Kent officers immobilised 125 vehicles using a steel rope padlocked around a wheel and the chassis. Police say the new law also means there have been fewer collisions and casualties on the county's roads.

Kent Police said that between April and October, 2008, there were 43 collisions and 68 casualties on our roads involving non-UK registered goods vehicles.

During the same period the following year, that fell to 34 collisions and 47 casualties. Before the new laws, police said their hands were tied. Officers were unable to issue fixed penalty notices to non-UK registered drivers because there was no guarantee a penalty would be paid within 28 days.

There was also no provision for checking whether or not they had committed previous offences that would lead to an automatic driving disqualification in the UK.

### Roadside fines

The powers were given by the Road Safety Act 2006, which received its national launch in Kent in April, 2009.

It ensures traffic legislation is now applied to all drivers on UK roads. Provisions allow non-UK drivers, and even British residents who can't provide a valid address, to be handed roadside fines of up to £900. Police can request immediate deposit in sterling or by credit card.

If they can't pay, the vehicle is immobilised until payment is made. Police can also immobilise defective vehicles until they are repaired, or until commercial vehicle drivers have taken a break if they exceed permitted driving times.

Officers say fear of detection is now higher because of the new enforcement tactics.

In the first year of the scheme, Kent Police have taken 1,464 'roadside deposits' amounting to £40,500. The fines are audited, and the cash goes to Treasury coffers.

A Kent Police spokesman said: "As with all penalty notices, we do not retain any revenue or receive administration costs, so there is no cash incentive."

"The introduction of the deposit scheme allows police to enforce the law fairly and consistently, regardless of where drivers are from."

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# yourletters

## YOUR LETTERS



## Vote for big three is a vote for Brussels

Why vote for any of the failed old parties? After all they have just one common tired old policy: they wholeheartedly support the EU.

But to do so means they also support transferring any powers remaining at Westminster to an unaccountable regime in Brussels (75 per cent has already been transferred); establishing unaccountable regional governments that bypass Westminster and act directly on Brussels' orders (they already exist but are in stealth mode); abolishing the House of Commons.

What no-one can explain to me is why anyone would want to be an MP with such a policy, why would anyone want to be an MP and work for Westminster's demise?

Alternatively on Thursday, May 6 voters can vote for a party that believes in freedom, self determination and democracy.

**David Waller**  
UKIP Parliamentary candidate for Tonbridge and Malling  
Comment posted online at [www.yourmaidstone.co.uk](http://www.yourmaidstone.co.uk)



HUNTING REPEAL: David Cameron

## Tories are out of the hunt for my vote

I won't be voting Conservative because the current party leadership has vowed that if they win this election they will try to repeal the Hunting Act.

The fact that at least 75 per cent of the population are against this law makes me worry that we are going to be bullied into accepting other policies that are only supported by the minority.

That is not a democratic process

## There are socialists left in the Weald

Having seen the list of candidates that I am up against, I quickly realised that I was the only socialist on the ballot paper in Maidstone and the Weald.

While it is disappointing that the mix of candidates was not more

**Descartes**  
Comment posted online at [www.yourmaidstone.co.uk](http://www.yourmaidstone.co.uk)



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# yourblogger

Just because Jack May, 15, can't vote doesn't mean he has nothing to say about the election ...



**Jack May has been on work experience with KOS Media. Here he gives his view of what the General Election means to him.**

I AM a 15-year-old pupil from Ashford and too young to vote this time.

I enjoy most sports, preferably football and cricket. I also enjoy listening to and playing music, just like many boys my age.

Currently, the General Election is pretty much the only news item on the agenda and on the front of every newspaper.

Politics doesn't particularly interest me, however I understand the importance of the event but do feel it is being hyped up a little too much.

If you gave me the choice, I wouldn't want any of the candidates as Prime Minister of our country.

They are all about themselves and have turned becoming PM and politics into a fight and who can come out on top, rather than who can offer the best for the country.

The way they constantly take digs at one another is childish – and the national papers do nothing to help.

They all try to pick out the problems in each other's policies, rather than focusing on their own.

Personally, I see all the candidates as fake and not really in touch with everyday life. They are all too posh and don't seem to understand what normal people want. The country as a whole needs a change of direction and Gordon Brown seems to have caused

nothing but trouble since he took over from Tony Blair. If Britain is to come out of the recession unscathed, Labour cannot be the party to lead the country, in my view.

To me, Mr Brown seems an arrogant man, throwing his toys out of his pram when he can't get his own way. This is not the kind of man Britain needs as a leader. That leaves the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats.

Now, being a teenager below voting age, I have little idea what any of their specific policies are, so have to base my judgement on what I have read and seen from their public performances.

In the first televised leaders' debate (which I didn't watch as I had better things to do) the Lib Dems and Nick Clegg seemed to win over the public.

However, in the run up to the second debate last Thursday, the national press were targeting Mr Clegg for some things he has said. Some papers suggested he wasn't the right man to lead the country either.

This leaves the Conservatives and David Cameron, who goes about his business quietly and seems like an all right guy.

He seems to have a good public persona and can see the funny side (referring to egg-throwing incident, for example) and is not always serious (which can get a bit boring).

From what I have seen and heard, the Tories are top of most polls and offer the best policies. For this reason, I would vote for them on May 6.

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the news editor, **Simon Robinson**, on 01303 817185 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Maidstone blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to [www.yourmaidstone.co.uk](http://www.yourmaidstone.co.uk).

in my opinion and I don't want to be associated with any candidate that agrees with this.

**T Hancock**  
Comment posted online at [www.yourmaidstone.co.uk](http://www.yourmaidstone.co.uk)

## Website lets you pick policies over parties

One way of avoiding the media hype and focus on personalities rather than issues is to judge the policies directly without even knowing which party promotes each one.

The website whogetsmyvote.com allows you to do just that.

I have to say it is quite scary at times (I had no idea I would choose the Labour option on one policy and the Tory one on another).

I will be visiting the site many times until the election and I am quite sure it may affect which way I vote. Worth a look.

**Descartes**  
Comment posted online at [www.yourmaidstone.co.uk](http://www.yourmaidstone.co.uk)

spread, it does mean that there is only one choice for left leaning voters.

Since Labour entered the mushy centre-right ground of the Lib Dems and Tories in 1997, their support has dwindled and is now at an all time low. The Christian Party, UKIP and the National Front are all to the right of the Conservatives, leaving only the Greens to represent a progressive vote for social justice, equality and fairness.

Ecology has always gone hand in hand with equality and I am proud to be standing on a radical platform of job creation, environmental protection and sound economics.

We have an urgent need to rapidly reduce our dependency on oil, gas and coal and we won't do this by cutting spending. Cutting spending will create a double dip recession and plunge millions of workers back into misery.

We need to create a million jobs in public transport, engineering, and the building industry to ensure our homes are properly insulated and renewable energy is generated wherever possible.

While creating jobs, we also want to see less inequality in society. Our tax plans would see 87 per cent of people being better off, especially those on lower incomes. For example, we would increase the state pension to £170 per week and reintroduce the ten per cent tax bracket.

On the other hand, we would end the upper limit on National Insurance and introduce a 50 per

cent tax bracket at £100k meaning that the super rich would start to pay their way in society.

**Stuart Jeffery**  
Green Party parliamentary candidate for Maidstone and the Weald



STOP FAR RIGHT: Rav Seeruthun

## No place for National Front in this election

I have contacted the other candidates to join a cross-party stop the National Front campaign.

I have been made aware that the National Front have handed the official papers in to stand a candidate in Maidstone and the Weald.

This will be the first time the party has stood a candidate in the General Election campaign. Given that both Helen Grant and I are from ethnic backgrounds I fear that this is the reason that they have put a candidate up.

They have not done this before, and we must attack them head-on

with a cross-party approach.

My parents came from Mauritius and Guyana to work in the NHS in the 1960s, and I became an NHS doctor.

Immigration can improve this country, as long as it is balanced and fair. I went on to discuss this issue further on the streets of Maidstone on Sunday, April 18 and comments from locals included "we have got to stop them, this country needs to know more about them".

I will try and organise a Stop the National Front campaign that also involves the public and hopes to have a public event with all the candidates.

**Rav Seeruthun**  
Labour parliamentary candidate for Maidstone and the Weald  
By Email

## Green a vote for improved education

Education should promote social and emotional well-being, equality, inclusion and responsibility. It can only do this if it is properly resourced.

The Green Party's suggested move towards a progressive tax system would enable new investment in improved schooling and training, and address skills shortages.

We would:

- Ensure most children are able to attend a good local school with admissions policies decided locally.
- End the Kent Test and create a comprehensive school system in Kent and Medway.
- Move gradually to smaller class sizes, spending a further £500 million on 15,000 more teachers to ensure classes are an average of 20 pupils by the end of the Parliament.
- Protect smaller schools and create more.
- Phase out student tuition fees in higher education.
- Remove the cap on university places and the block Gordon Brown placed on 40,000 foreign students entering the UK to study.
- Move towards ending the need for private education by creating a programme of voluntary assimilation of private schools into the state sector.
- Phase out city academies and trust schools because it is wrong to allow business and other outside organisations to have too great an influence over schools.
- Abolish the remaining SATS tests, and give schools and teachers more freedom over the curriculum they teach.
- We would also provide a full half-day a week of inviting physical activity for every child, and at least one day a year learning in the natural environment.
- Provide free school meals for all with locally sourced or fair-trade and (where possible) organic food, and with a vegetarian option;
- Introduce children to renewable technologies at school by ensuring that most schools get the bulk of their energy from on-site renewable sources.

**Kent Green Party**  
By email



WHAT A NEUTER: Nick Topper and Yowsah

## Rock icon joins RSPCA campaign

A CLAMPDOWN on aggressive dogs is sometimes the only way to prevent a white riot, claims The Clash's former lead singer Topper Headon.

Dover resident Topper – or rather Nick these days – has teamed up with his local RSPCA branch to help promote the charity's aid campaign for all Staffordshire bull terriers to be neutered.

The rock icon said he wanted to get involved because he had first-hand experience of how difficult it can be for non-neutered dogs and their owners alike.

He said: "I have a fantastic 12-year-old Staffie called Yowsah. When he was four he started to become aggressive and was trying to fight with other dogs all the time, and it wasn't enjoyable to take him out."

"He was a changed dog afterwards – so much happier, calmer and much more fun to take out."

The RSPCA offer is for male and female dogs belonging to owners on benefits and living in the Dover and Deal area. The closing date to apply is May 14 but there are limited vouchers so it may close earlier if they are all snapped up.

Call 07955 913 556 for more information.

# Recession bites as organic food sales decrease

KENT'S organic farmers have backed the findings of a new report showing a rapid decline in the demand for their food products.

As the effects of the recession continue to bite, a report found sales of organic food, drink and other products slumped by almost 13 per cent last year.

Producers are finding consumers are shying away from organically grown products such as vegetables because they tend to be more expensive.

With all the belt-tightening going on, organic farmers in Kent are feeling those effects, too.

Alan Brockman helps run Perry Court Farm in Petham, near Canterbury. He said they used to supply a couple of dozens restaurants in the region, but many have gone out of business.

Mr Brockman, a partner in the company, said: "We have had very difficult times because we have had a lot of bad debts.

"That hasn't helped. It's all part of the recession. You need good credit ratings to survive. We have had to contract quite a lot."

■ BY CHRIS MURPHY

Gerry Minister has run Luddesdown Organic Farm since 1986 and was one of the movement's pioneers.

He said: "People do think organic foods are more expensive, and at one time, they were. But these days there is very little between them, so cost really is not that big an issue these days."

"However, it is true that the price does appear very much differently by the time the products reach the supermarket shelves."

"If people were to come to our farm shop they would find the prices are almost the same."

Mr Minister farms 1,100 acres in the small village of Luddesdown near Gravesend. He said: "Sales of organic produce are all down, but I am surprised it is only down by 13 per cent, but I suppose that is an average."

"The recession started to effect us in 2008 and 2009 was not good. It's not picking up yet really."

"There are two factors – one is a perception of extra cost, but our retail shop doesn't reflect that."

"And the supermarket putting up prices and shrinking shelf space hasn't done us much good."



PRICE CROP: Farm manager Gerry Minister tests the grain

"I think if people knew how prices are now, they would buy a lot more of it. If they come direct to us, they can see for themselves. They would see it is not all bad news."

The Organic Market Report 2010 found the worst trading climate for 20 years.

Home delivery organic vegetable and fruit boxes also fell out of favour, with a 9.8 per cent drop, while sales of organic goods in supermarkets fell by 12 per cent, and in the independent sector – farm shops and health food outlets – by almost 18 per cent.

In total across the UK, organic sales fell last year from a record high of £2.1bn in 2008 to £1.84bn, according to the report compiled annually by the Soil Association.

Dairy remains overall the most popular food category, accounting for 33 per cent of all sales.

Despite the publicity given to animal welfare by chefs such as Jamie Oliver and Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, consumers also fell out of love with expensive organic meat.

The report said demand for organic beef fell by 30 per cent and lamb by 10 per cent with organic chicken production slashed by 20 per cent.

## THE DEMELZA MAY BALL EASTWELL MANOR

WHEN: SATURDAY 15TH MAY 2010

WHERE: EASTWELL MANOR, ASHFORD, KENT, TN25 4HR

TIME: 7.00 PM CHAMPAGNE AND CANAPE RECEPTION

during which there will be the opportunity to buy tickets to win the new Mini First, the draw for which will take place at midnight. Visit the Silent Auction that will also include prestigious artwork and try your luck in the Platinum Raffle!

### PROGRAMME FOR THE EVENING:

- 7.00 pm Champagne and Canape Reception
- 7.30 pm Dinner is served
- Entertainment
- A short live auction

- Dancing to live band and disco
- The draw will take place at midnight to find the lucky winner of the Mini First car competition
- Dancing continues until 1 am

- Dress Code: Black Tie
- Carriages: 1.00 am
- Tickets: £100.00 each (tables are for 10 guests and smaller numbers will be combined)

Be part of what promises to be a fabulous evening in a stunning setting including a champagne and canape reception, three course dinner prepared by Eastwell Manor's award winning Head Chef and his team and dancing to a live band and disco to raise money for a very worthy cause. Contact Sarah Taylor on 01795 845204 or email [sarah.taylor@demelza.org.uk](mailto:sarah.taylor@demelza.org.uk) to reserve your table.



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# yourlocal eating out guide

Advertise your venue on in the next guide and [yourkenttv.co.uk](http://yourkenttv.co.uk) – the Kent local search directory - Telephone: 01303 817150

# Venue bringing good food right up to date

## ■ Verve Grill, Village Hotel

ADDING a modern vibe to the hotel and leisure market is the Village Hotel and Leisure Club, one of the most popular, up-to-date and trendy venues in Maidstone.

Part of a complex which includes 122 bedrooms, a Starbucks, leisure club and pool along with conference facilities popular eating and drinking venues, the Victory Pub and Verve Grill Restaurant still manage to stand out.

Not only is the menu deliciously dotted with modern classics, no-one can fail to appreciate the ambience, which is spot on when it comes to the discerning diner and drinker.

The Victory is a traditional pub within the hotel and offers a great choice of quality beers alongside a choice of wine and pub food.

Meanwhile, the Verve Grill has a wide range of fresh, modern, European dishes with regular menu changes to keep both staff and customers on their toes – and waiting for the latest treat.

A Robbie Williams tribute night takes place on Friday, May 14, with Blondie a fortnight later.

A Blues Brothers-style band takes to the stage on Friday June 18 and two days later is a Father's Day carvery.



David White, deputy general manager, has 16 years experience in the trade.

Every Thursday is a Girls at the Grill night and the special Hot Rock Grill – where guests become chefs with their own hot rocks – are

very popular. This treat is available from Monday to Saturday from 6-9.45pm.

**Verve Grill, Village Hotel and Leisure Club, Castle View, Forstal Rd, Sandling Maidstone ME14 3AQ.**  
Telephone 01622 672200

## CHEF RECOMMENDS

### Elvey Farm

Starter: Local rabbit and leek terrine  
Main course: Kentish Chicken pudding – a suet pudding with diced chicken, pork belly and mushrooms in a light chicken sauce  
Dessert: Homemade gypsy tart  
Telephone number: 01233 840442

### Bloomers at the Overcliff

Starter: Scottish wild smoked salmon, prawns and mixed leaves  
Main course: Baked lamb with a walnut and mushroom stuffing and a mint jus.  
Dessert: Strawberries with liquor  
Telephone number: 01474 322131

### See Ho

Starter: Home-made cream of vegetable soup with roll and butter  
Main: Minted lamb shank with minted gravy, fresh vegetables and mashed potato  
Dessert: Apple and blackberry pie  
Telephone number: 01474 822386

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### Out & About

This Bank Holiday Weekend? Take a drive into the countryside and visit Shorne Country Park? We're only round the corner, pop in for lunch between 12pm & 3pm or for an evening meal from 6pm

**DAY & NIGHT****A love story for April**

SET in 1920s England, Loving April is a portrayal of a young woman trapped by society's strict values.

Oxfordshire Theatre Company presents the powerful love story at Lenham Community Centre at 7.30pm on Saturday. Tickets, at £8, are available from the centre on 01622 853800, mornings only, or by calling 01622 858011.

**TV's Big Chris roars in**

CHILDREN'S favourite Roary the Racing Car will be appearing at Fremlin Walk in Maidstone's Classic Car Show.

The TV character and mechanic Big Chris can be seen in front of House of Fraser between 10.30am to 4.30pm on Sunday. There will also be classic cars and motorbikes on display. For details visit [www.fremlinwalk.co.uk](http://www.fremlinwalk.co.uk).

**Music to help Heroes**

ENJOY live music with Herofest at the Red Lion in Northfleet on Sunday.

With 45 bands performing over four stages, Herofest is a huge event which boasts big names like Kingskin, Tokyo Jo, Adelaide and Tyrannosaurus Alan.

The fun starts at 1pm and entry costs £5 with proceeds going to Help for Heroes.

**Country fun for family**

DISCOVER exciting activities and entertainment at the Kent County Fair.

Running at The Hop Farm in Paddock Wood from Saturday to Bank Holiday Monday, the programme includes gun dog displays, pony club games, and family activities. Tickets are £10.50 in advance, £12.50 on the gate. For details visit [www.thehopfarm.co.uk](http://www.thehopfarm.co.uk).

**Flushed with laughter**

GIRLS just want to have fun in the riotous musical Hot Flush! which visits Dartford next week.

Lesley Joseph leads the cast in a hilarious story about four women going through the menopause at the Orchard Theatre in Dartford on Monday and Tuesday.

To book call 01322 220000 or visit [www.orchardtheatre.co.uk](http://www.orchardtheatre.co.uk).

**Have a ball at dockyard**

CELEBRATE victory at the VE Day Ball at the Historic Dockyard, Chatham.

On Saturday, May 8, revellers are invited to enjoy an evening of 1940s music in this atmospheric setting. Tickets cost £12.50/£10 for adults, £8 for children and £33.50 for families of four. To book call 01634 823826 or visit [www.thedockyard.co.uk](http://www.thedockyard.co.uk).

**Recorder festival dates**

TALENTED young musicians will demonstrate the joys of the recorder at Mote Hall in Maidstone.

Kent Music's three-day Spring Recorder Festival involves more than 400 children and culminates in a concert at 7.30pm on Friday. Tickets cost £4 from Denise Milne on 01622 358435 or email [dmilne@kent-music.com](mailto:dmilne@kent-music.com).

# Take a chance on two timeless acts

Sing along to hits of Abba and the Bee Gees at ultimate tribute night

**THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC**

Friday, April 30

Central Theatre, Chatham.



FANS of timeless pop will be in heaven with the toe-tapping tribute show, Thank You For the Music.

In the company of ABBA Magic and Bee Gees Magic, music lovers can enjoy a fantastic evening packed with unforgettable tunes and sing-along anthems.

So whether you long to demonstrate why you are a Dancing Queen or have been struck down with Night Fever, this show is sure to get those feet moving and transport you back to a golden age of disco.

Now in its 17th year, Thank You For the Music has been filling venues for longer than ABBA's reign as the kings and queens of pop. Expect rousing performances of all your favourite hits, along with infectious dance routines, a new set list and captivating costumes.

For four decades, ABBA have been delighting established fans and finding new audiences with their unforgettable songs. Even those who are too young to remember the hits the first time around will still know songs like Super Trouper and Take A Chance On Me, thanks to the success of the hit stage and screen musical, Mamma Mia! Meryl Streep and Piers Brosnan starred in the film version, which took the music of ABBA to a whole new audience.

The Swedish band – Anni-Frid Lyngstad, better known as Frida, Björn Ulvaeus, Benny Andersson and Agnetha Faltskog – formed in 1970, little knowing that they were to become arguably the most iconic pop group of all time.

With their song Waterloo, they won the 1973 Eurovision Song Contest, marking the start of a phenomenally successful career in which they dominated the charts in many countries.

Over the years they recorded 19 top 20 hits and hit the number one spot nine times. But more than this, their music has endured over the decades and still receives constant radio airplay, while no disco or karaoke evening would be complete without a rendition of Dancing Queen, The Winner Takes It All or Knowing Me, Knowing You.

Martin Spooner, who plays Björn in the show, spoke about the extraordinary effect ABBA had on the music world and their fans.

"Few bands can claim to have made as big an impact on British pop music history," he said. "Their million-selling hits, such as The Name of the Game and Mamma Mia, are eternal. ABBA's music is as popular now as it was in their 70s and 80s heyday. Thank You For the Music continues this incredible legacy."

The Bee Gees have also released a huge catalogue of timeless music, and their unmistakable style continues to enthrall their fans.



With the soundtrack for hit movie Saturday Night Fever, the band produced truly iconic tunes that fill dance floors to this day. They have also written hits for other artists.

With numbers such as Stayin' Alive, Massachusetts and How Deep Is Your Love, the Bee Gees have more than earned their place in the hearts and record collections of

millions of fans. Fans now have the chance to hear those fantastic songs played live once again in this exciting and affectionate celebration of two musical greats.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £18/£17. Book online at [www.thecentraltheatre.co.uk](http://www.thecentraltheatre.co.uk) or call the box office on 01634 338338.

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## ROCHESTER SWEEPS' FESTIVAL

Saturday, May 1 to Monday, May 3, Town centre, Rochester

CELEBRATE May Day in traditional style when the Rochester Sweeps Festival takes over the town this weekend.

With more than 100,000 visitors expected, the festival will be one of the most entertaining events taking place in Kent. It is now the biggest gathering of Morris dancers in the country and more than 70 sides from across the UK are expected to descend on Rochester.

Visitors and residents can look forward to performances by street entertainers, dancers and chimney sweeps. Cara Dillon and BBC Radio Two Folk Award

winners Bellowhead will be among the folk performers in Castle Gardens, while local music talent such as Lupen Crook, The Lovedays and The Flowing will perform in the concert marquee.

The fun starts on Bluebell Hill at dawn on Saturday with the traditional Jack-in-the-Green Awakening Ceremony and the festival draws to a close with a huge procession through Rochester on bank holiday Monday.

For full details call 01634 843666 or visit [www.whatson-medway.co.uk/sweepsfestival](http://www.whatson-medway.co.uk/sweepsfestival).



## STACEY EARLE AND MARK STUART

Monday, May 3, Breeze Bar, Maidstone

DO not miss the chance to see an outstanding musical duo on their final UK tour together.

As both personal and professional partners, Stacey Earle and Mark Stuart have formed something of a dream team. With their chemistry evident on the stage, they have found a harmony that has delighted audiences on the Americana and alternative country circuit.

The husband and wife team from Nashville have both released highly successful solo albums and they will be going their separate ways professionally after this tour. But first fans

can enjoy their brand of folk, country and gospel that can be found on their latest album, S&M Communion Bread.

The couple met when Earle was opening an acoustic show for her hell-raising older brother, country rock superstar Steve Earle, and Stuart played some of his own songs that evening. After sitting in a waffle house until 5am, the pair made a connection which has stood the test of time.

The concert starts at 7.45pm and tickets cost £15 in advance or £17 on the door. To book call Maverick Live on 01622 744481.

## JOY OF POLITICS

Wednesday, May 5, Exchange Studio, Maidstone



SEE the funny side of the looming general election with the hilarious Joy of Politics.

Presented by Black Sheep, this irreverent show pokes fun at everything from the Magna Carta to the morning's headlines, and shines a torch into the darkest corners of Westminster. Join the award-winning double act on a romp through the corridors of power and enjoy their manifesto of mirth, the perfect escape from election overload.

Andrew Jones and Ciaran Murtagh are award-winning performers who write for Radio Four and have created such successful shows as The Joy of Wine, I, Lear and Entertainium. The Joy of Politics was premiered in London and is now hitting the road to entertain the great British public.

If you enjoyed shows like Yes Minister, The New Statesman and The Now Show, The Joy of Politics is sure to tickle your funny bone in satirical style.

The show starts at 8pm and tickets cost £12/£10. To book call the box office on 01622 758611 or visit the website at [www.hazlittarts-centre.co.uk](http://www.hazlittarts-centre.co.uk).



## CARL CRAIG AT OFF KEY

Sunday, May 2, Banks Bar, Maidstone



A SPECIAL guest travels all the way from America to help OFF KEY celebrate its first birthday this weekend.

The dance music events have been delighting clubbers for the last 12 months and on Sunday, a special event will be held to mark the occasion.

Guest of honour will be Carl Craig from Detroit, whose performance at that first event in London helped to shape the way organisers look at electronic music. The experience helped to form the ethos of OFF KEY, now a popular part of Maidstone's music scene.

Craig has been at the forefront of techno for 30 years, and has continued to reinvigorate electronic music over the years. With his record label Planet E, high quality productions and spectacular remixes, Craig pushes the boundaries and has remained an exciting presence on the scene.

Sam Ball, Lee Brinx, Duncan K and Nathan Martin will also be appearing. The event starts at 1pm and early bird tickets cost £10, while standard admission costs £15.

The party is a strictly ticket-only event and is sure to be in high demand, so book as soon as possible by visiting [www.clubtickets.com](http://www.clubtickets.com).



## CARMEN SOUZA QUARTET

Saturday, May 1, Village Hall, Hunton



BROADEN your musical horizons and experience the sound of the Carmen Souza Quartet.

This exotic group will take the audience on a wonderful journey into the niche world of Afro-European jazz, blending many traditional and contemporary aspects to create their own captivating music.

Using Creole, the dialect of Souza's ancestors, they combine traditional African and Cape Verde rhythms with the jazz influences of today to stunning effect.

Experience the rhythms of Batuque, Morna and Cola Djon with a contemporary twist, in a performance that will display the Cape Verdean quartet's impressive repertoire. The line-up features Souza on vocals, guitar and Wurlitzer, along with Theo Pas'cal on bass and double bass. Pedro Segundo plays percussion and Jonathan Idiagbonya provides an acoustic piano sound on keyboards.

Teamed with Souza's effortless vocals, their sound is a breath of fresh air. Discover their poignant songs when they visit Hunton as part of Applause Rural Touring's spring season. The concert starts at 8pm and tickets are £8 or £5 for under 21s. Call 01622 820683/820127 or email [abcon\\_@hotmail.com](mailto:abcon_@hotmail.com) or [j.crane@virgin.net](mailto:j.crane@virgin.net).



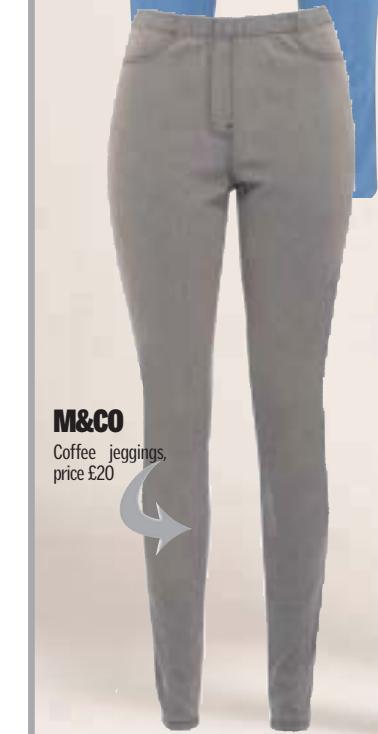
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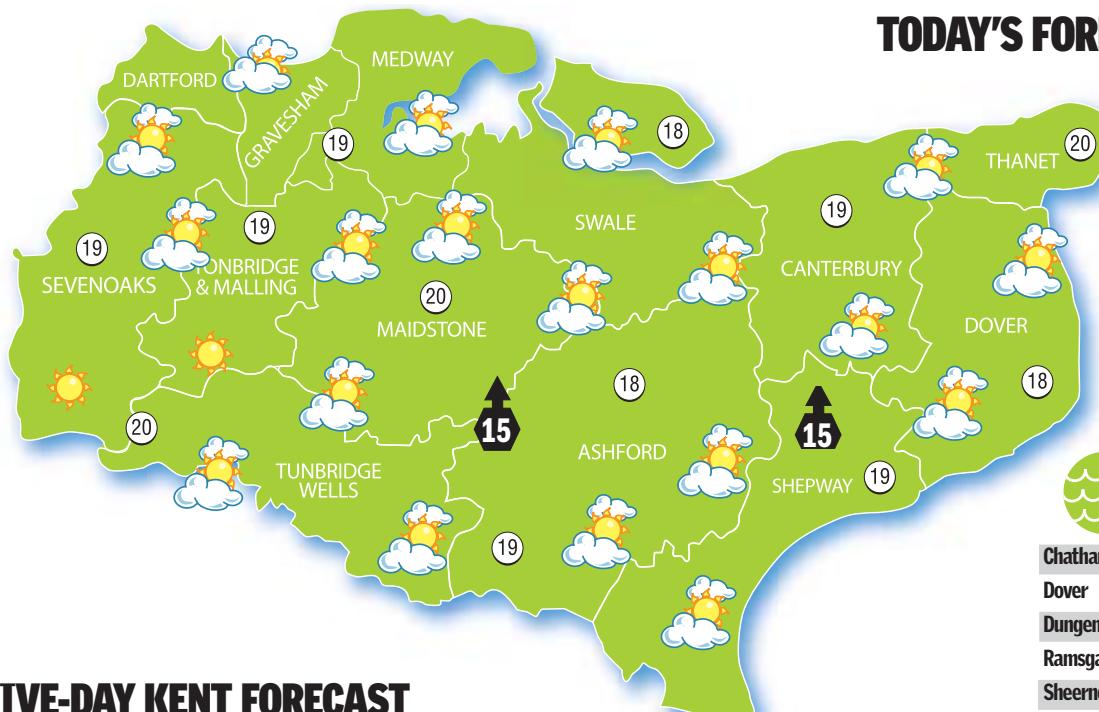


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## TODAY'S FORECAST



## AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	14°C	Madrid	25°C
Athens	21°C	New York	11°C
Barcelona	20°C	Paris	15°C
Beijing	12°C	Rome	22°C
Bombay	34°C	Sydney	19°C
Cape Town	26°C	Tenerife	24°C
Cardiff	12°C	Tokyo	19°C
Gibraltar	20°C	Vancouver	11°C
Hong Kong	21°C	Warsaw	18°C
Las Palmas	25°C	Wellington	18°C

## FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	
Ashford	20°C	21°C	19°C	15°C	14°C	Dover
Canterbury	17°C	20°C	18°C	15°C	12°C	Faversham
Chatham	17°C	19°C	16°C	14°C	11°C	Folkestone
Dartford	20°C	21°C	19°C	15°C	13°C	Gillingham
						Gravesend
						Maidstone
						Ramsgate
						Rochester

Chatham	Saturday	3:24pm 6.0m	Sunday	4:01pm 5.8m
Dover	Saturday	1:42pm 6.5m	Sunday	2:21pm 6.3m
Dungeness	Saturday	1:39pm 7.5m	Sunday	2:17pm 7.2m
Ramsgate	Saturday	2:12pm 5.0m	Sunday	2:51pm 4.8m
Sheerness	Saturday	3:14pm 5.7m	Sunday	3:51pm 5.5m
Whitstable	Saturday	3:21pm 5.2m	Sunday	3:57pm 5.1m

SUNRISE 5.33am SUNSET 8.14pm  
 MOONRISE 8.53pm MOONSET 4.55am

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# your competition

## WIN a meal for you and your family



DOVER'S newest pub and restaurant, the Kittiwake, has teamed up with Yourlocal to offer lucky readers the chance to win a tasty pub meal for their family.

Up for grabs is a three course meal for five families\* at the Kittiwake, which opens in May.

Mouth-watering classics such as steak and ale pie and battered fish and chips as well as an extensive range of cask beers, in a relaxed atmosphere, are on offer at the pub.

The pub is one of more than 60 planned to be built by Marston's Inns and Taverns, as part of a drive to

provide top quality pubs across Britain.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Kittiwake Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is May 10, 2010.

**Question: When does the Kittiwake open?**

\*Family of up to four people, drinks not included.

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# Make a date with laughter with Shawn Levy's new action comedy

■ BY DAMON SMITH

**ROMANCE** is dead and the lead characters of Shawn Levy's hysterical action comedy may be too before the end credits roll.

Date Night centres on a loving, married couple who have lost the spark in their relationship.

The spouses' efforts to reinvigorate the marriage take a turn for the surreal as screenwriter Josh Klausner propels these unassuming and hard-working suburbanites on a series of crazy misadventures.

Steve Carell and Tina Fey are perfectly cast as the parents trapped in a state of bland indifference, who just need several brushes with death to remind them what is important.

So much of our enjoyment comes from the sizzling rapport between the leads.

"Everything you're doing, I'm doing in heels," Fey's wife reminds her husband as the fugitive couple go on the run and call in favours to stay one step ahead of the bad guys.

Phil Foster (Carell) and his wife Claire (Fey) live in New Jersey with their children, who negate the need for an alarm clock by pile driving their parents' heads before 5am.

Every week, the Fosters hire a babysitter so they can go through the ritual of date night – sitting at the same table in the same restaurant ordering the same food, all under the guise of spending quality time together.

Phil and Claire attempt to spice up date night by having dinner at the most exclusive new restaurant in Manhattan.

The Fosters arrive without a reservation and when another couple fails to turn up, Phil and Claire cheekily pretend to be the elusive Triplehorn and take the vacant table.

Towards the end of the meal, heavies Armstrong and Collins take Phil and Claire into an alleyway and demand the return of a flash drive which the real Triplehorn have stolen.



**MARRIED BLISS:** Tina Fey (left) and Steve Carell (right) are perfectly cast as parents trapped in a bland marriage

The Fosters' innocent pleas fall on deaf thug ears and the married couple become embroiled in a life or death race around the city involving a violent gangster (Ray Liotta), a disgraced Mayor, a plucky female cop and a hunky surveillance expert (Mark Wahlberg).

Date Night has huge fun at the expense of unlikely action heroes Carell and Fey.

Their characters' ham-fisted efforts to escape an early grave are comically inept, including a getaway in quite possibly the world's slowest motor boat.

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A hare-brained car chase and a sequence in a pole-dancing club where the Fosters pretend to be "sex robots" to work up one punter into a froth of sexual excitement are side-splitting.

The supporting cast has a ball, notably Wahlberg who pokes gentle fun at his image as a dunderhead with a rippling six pack.

Levy maintains a jaunty pace and offsets the lunacy with moments of heartfelt emotion to ensure this is a date night to remember.

**DATE NIGHT** Certificate 15

PICTURE: ITV



**FINAL DEBATE:** Party leaders prepare to meet in front of the cameras one more time



**YOUR TV REVIEW**

**VOLCANIC ASH: FLIGHT OF TERROR:** Five

**THE PRIME MINISTERIAL DEBATE:** BBC One, 8.30pm, Thursday

■ BY THOMAS BETTS

WHEN it comes to jumping on topical bandwagons, Five are usually ahead of the pack.

The blatant opportunity presented when planes were grounded for the best part of a week, led to Volcanic Ash: Flight of Terror.

Digital images used in the docudrama to reconstruct when a British Airways 747 flight to Australia survived passing through an ash cloud 28 years ago were splashed over the Daily Star's front page last week.

Given it was on the morning after flight restrictions had been lifted with passengers eager to get away, airport bosses promptly removed all copies of the red-top rag to avoid causing alarm.

The show followed a familiar format of how everything started off perfectly normal, before people began noticing odd occurrences such as

smoke creeping into the cabin and the plane's engines lighting up.

The undeniable highlight was the message from captain Eric Moody to passengers when he said: "Ladies and gentlemen, this is your captain speaking. We have a small problem.

"All four engines have stopped. We are doing our damnedest to get it under control. I trust you are not in too much distress."

NO MATTER what the outcome of the election is there is no doubt that the three televised debates will have played their part.

The true extent will only be felt once the votes are cast and the results in and analysed, but they have been essential viewing as this country

finally caught up with what the Americans have been doing for years.

It's only right that we voters have had the chance to hear the leaders go head to head, and debate the issues.

It's just surprising that it has taken so long for it to come about as JFK and Richard Nixon first slugged it out in front of the cameras in 1960.

It was a shame that Sky News televised the last debate, meaning millions may have missed out, but in four or five years time, when more people have made the digital switchover, that will be less of a problem.

Now we have entered this territory there will surely be no way of going back, so expect this particular circus to be a part of any election campaigns we see in future.

The final debate is tomorrow night, on BBC One, and will centre on the economy. Can you afford not to watch?

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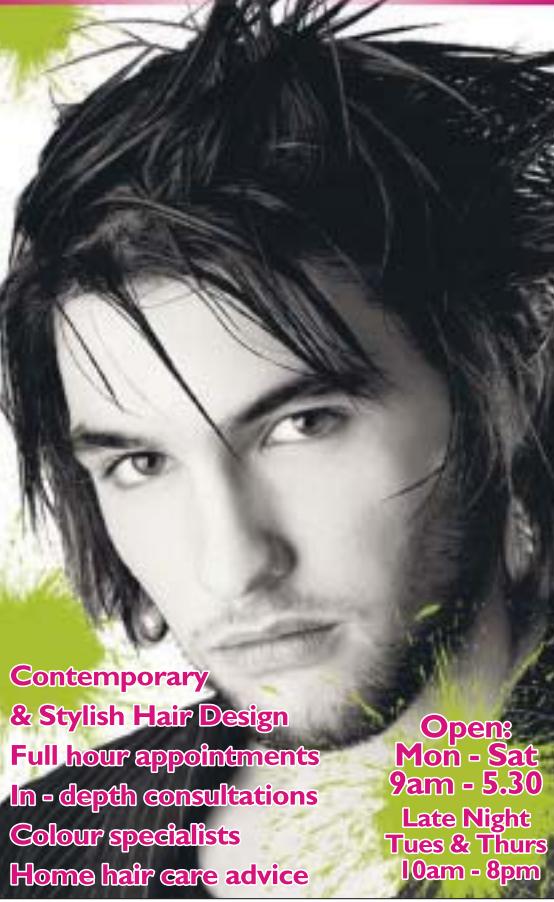
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<b>Mayfair*</b>	£399	£449	£489	£529	£519
<b>Norfolk BB</b>	£279	£319	£349	£369	£379

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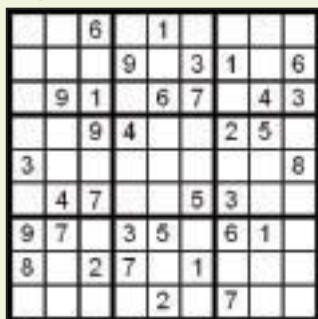
## CROSSWORD & SUDOKU

No133

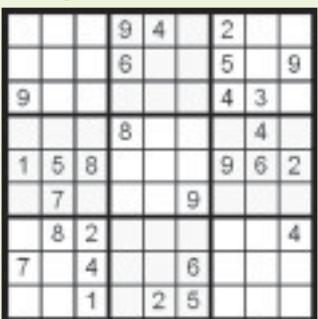
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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

### EASY



### MEDIUM



### HARD



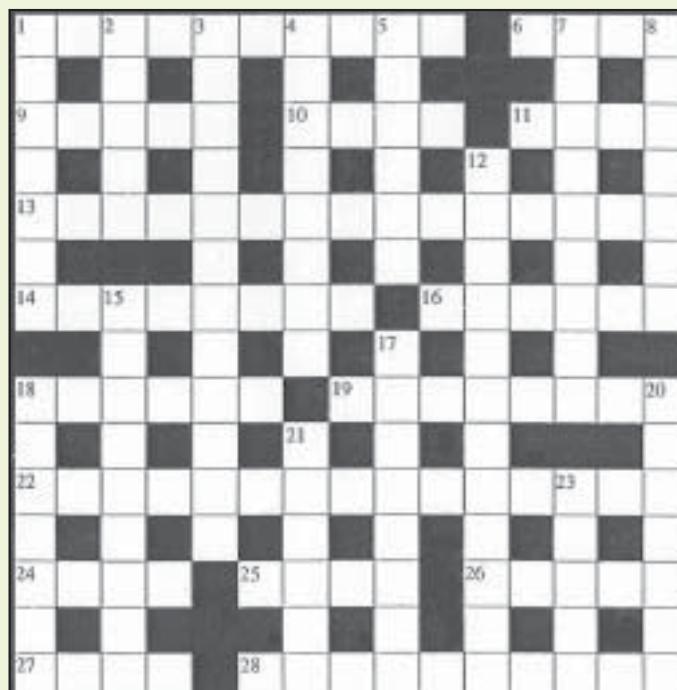
## CRYPTIC CLUES

### ACROSS

- Shaver's instrument very clearly delineated (5-5)
- Only egghead found on the island (4)
- Is able to produce verse (5)
- Press chap ushered inside (4)
- Preserve black doorpost (4)
- Very calm and unexcited like hothouse plant surprisingly (4,2,1,8)
- Old battle of extortion (8)
- Bar ribs to be served (6)
- With word of hesitation dry up (6)
- Present shawl in coloured paper? (8)
- Virtually incredible (3,4,2,2,4)
- Warm-up race (4)
- Man shortly goes out to sea (4)
- Secretary has dispensed with title (5)
- Double half-turn in skirt (4)
- Bitty? (10)

### DOWN

- Re-use celery recipe (7)
- Picture element with ring underneath (5)
- Novel attic (4,2,3,3)
- Removed the gap on polygon (8)
- Squire becoming slightly indecent (6)
- Natural BO developing in Asian capital! (4,5)
- Half of them exclude travel ban (7)
- It is no secret how to cook alfresco? (3,2,3,4)
- A nut roast cooked for highflier (9)
- Weight of skirt that had been shortened Margo repaired (8)
- Be careful, timekeeper has the very thing (5,2)
- Len, pray about meeting (7)
- Opinion these days on immorality (6)
- Cult member from Honduras taken home (5)



## QUICK CLUES

### ACROSS

- Piece of cutlery (10)
- Collapse (4)
- Showy display (5)
- Feeble-minded (4)
- Stained (4)
- Place to buy cheap goods (7,8)
- Omission of implied word (8)
- Picture puzzle (6)
- Foolishness (6)
- Prisoner (8)
- Short description of someone (9,6)
- Mormon state (4)
- Zest (4)
- Sign on (5)
- Go on a bicycle (4)
- Person from Nashville perhaps (10)

### DOWN

- Quiver (7)
- Farm implement (5)
- Very distinctive (5-7)
- Scholastic (8)
- Bandit (6)
- One of the laity (9)
- Cornish resort (7)
- Half-light (4-8)
- Help (4,14)
- On target (anag.) (8)
- Varnish (7)
- Hierarchy (7)
- Rivets (anag.) (6)
- Trio (5)

## LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD & SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

### CRYPTIC SOLUTION No132

**ACROSS:** 1 Corps 4 Grey area 8 Time of one's life 10 Zealously 11 Inner 12 Nude 13 Tax haven 17 Workload 18 Flab 22 Lucre 24 Reticence 25 Romeo and Juliet 26 Adultery 27 Theta. **DOWN:** 1 Citizen 2 Ram-raider 3 Spot-on 4 Grouse 5 Everyday 6 All right 7 Elfyn 9 Bran 14 Valentine 15 Bluebell 16 Marriage 17 Walk 19 Beef-tea 20 Stodgy 21 Acquit 23 Crowd.

### QUICK SOLUTION No133

**ACROSS:** 1 Tablespoon 6 Flap 9 Elect 10 Date 11 Dye'd 13 Bargain basement 14 Elipsis 16 Jigsaw 18 Laundry 19 Delicate hand 17 Tefalogen 18 Lacquer 20 Echelon 21 Strike 23 Three. **DOWN:** 5 Outlaw 7 Layperson 8 Pudding 12 Semi-darkness 15 Lead a Tempestuous 16 Sleek 24 Ulrich 25 Zing 26 Elliot 27 Rite 28 22 Chardonnay 23 Shredder 24 Ulrich 25 Zing 26 Elliot 27 Rite 28

## YOUR HOROSCOPE BY RUSSELL GRANT



### AQUARIUS

(Jan 21-Feb 19) A SOURCE of income could suddenly dry up. Although the prospect of finding a new job is daunting, you need to get to work. You may decide to launch a business from home. Caring for people's pets or children will give you time to work out a new career plan.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



### PISCES

(Feb 20-Mar 20) YOUR erratic behaviour is taking a toll on your personal life. If you're in a relationship, your partner may be considering a break up. It's not fair to subject your beloved to a series of crazy whims. Think carefully before making a decision, and then stick to it.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



### ARIES

(Mar 21-Apr 20) A COMPETITION at work is draining you of energy. Instead of trying to outdo a colleague, try raising your own game. Acquire some new skills or look for another opportunity. You might even decide to take a sabbatical. Improving your health will give you the necessary energy.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



### TAURUS

(Apr 21-May 21) STRIKING a balance between discipline and freedom is difficult. You're such a hard worker you sometimes forget to sit back and enjoy the ride. Instead of piling more responsibilities on your plate, take a few days off. A loved one is poised to give you a wonderful gift.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



### GEMINI

(May 22-Jun 22) UNEXPECTED changes at work will force you to alter your plans. It may be necessary to downsize your lifestyle. Fortunately, you're pretty versatile. The same isn't true for loved ones. You will need to help them through. Head for a zoo, museum, or playground together.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



### CANCER

(Jun 23-Jul 23) A SMOOTH talker has aroused your suspicions. It's time to stand up for people who are being used by a manipulative charmer. At first, your warnings will fall on deaf ears. In time people will realise they have created a false idol. You need to be ready to pick up the pieces.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



### LEO

(Jul 24-Aug 23) FINANCES are tight, and it's hard not to take your frustrations out on a partner. At times like these, the two of you need to stand together. The next time you feel the need to lash out, pick up a paintbrush or a power tool – a repair project will make you forget your troubles.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



### VIRGO

(Aug 24-Sep 23) A DOWN in the dumps, pessimistic attitude is harming a close relationship. Instead of predicting everything that could go wrong, offer your support. This runs contrary to your nature, but that's a good thing. By letting go just a little, you'll make room for spontaneity.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



### LIBRA

(Sep 24-Oct 23) SOME upsetting memories make it hard to get any work done. You need to resolve them now, even if it means taking some time off from your job. Get help to work through your anger and frustration. It may be necessary to confront a teacher or instructor who abused their power.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



### SCORPIO

(Oct 24-Nov 22) A NEW friend or relationship is wreaking havoc on your life. Although it's exciting to never know what your partner will do or say, you have to admit this has taken you away from your friends. They don't like this new arrival and think it's not good for you. Maybe they're right.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



### SAGITTARIUS

(Nov 23-Dec 21) A MOVE, announcement or decision causes some old feeling to be stirred up. You're not sure what to think about a relative trying to impose a warped belief system on you. Instead of dwelling on this resentment, create a lifestyle that makes sense for you.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



### CAPRICORN

(Dec 22-Jan 20) GETTING the training you need will be difficult. You'll have to fill your time with something productive while you wait for a place in the next available class. Arranging a party for a friend will be fun. An intimate supper will give everybody the chance to talk.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

### EASY



### MEDIUM



### HARD



Calls cost 75p per minute. Service provided by g8wave London N7



# yourmusic

## Hair's to another great LOTF event



**BEATBOX SENSATION:** Beardyman has joined the list of great acts performing this year

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

BREATHTAKING beatbox artist Beardyman has been added to the Lounge on the Farm line-up.

The London-born vocalist's appearance at the Canterbury three-dayer was confirmed alongside nearly 50 other artists and bands.

Out-of-town names include These New Puritans, the Phenomenal Handclap Band, Danny & The Champions of The World and Lissy Trullie.

Lounge bosses said Erland & The Carnival – featuring The Verve guitarist Simon Tong and Paul McCartney collaborator David Knock among their ranks – and Quantic and his Comba Barbaro were not to be missed.

They said: "Erland & The Carnival's distinctive and unmissable swirling riffs derive from Orcadian singer Erland Cooper's fun-fair folk stylings.

Also making the journey to Kent's green and pleasant land will be Quantic and his Comba Barbaro a brand new band who fuse rare and infectious rhythms from the Caribbean, Latin America and Africa with Quantic's own renowned deep soul and refried funk."

The LOTF organisers have also unveiled a host of Kentish acts, who are booked to perform at the July weekender.

These include Tom Williams & The Boat, Lucy Kitt, CWB, Electric Rive and Wolf People.

Among the Lounge headliners are Motown greats Martha Reeves & The Vandellas, ska legends Toots & The Maytals, The Crazy World of Arthur Brown, DJ Yoda and Courtney Pine.

Lounge promoters are promising their fifth year will be the biggest and best yet.

The spokesman added: "With increased capacity, this year's Lounge On The Farm looks set to be the finest yet."

"We have a medley of musical pleasures – from local heroes and the next big things to the truly legendary – spread across seven stages, plus incredible comedy,

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[yourkenttv.co.uk](http://yourkenttv.co.uk)



Belleville perform For You (Forever Young) in Canterbury.



Jus' Ben covers Keane's modern classic Everybody's Changing.



### TOP FIVE KENT GIGS

- 1 Gristlebridge - 6/5 The Beercart Arms Canterbury
- 2 The Suspects - 8/5 King Edward VII Margate
- 3 Flipswitch - 29/5 Maidens Head Canterbury
- 4 Save Target As - 30/5 The Downtown Dinner Ashford
- 5 Craig Sheridan - 5/6 The Port Arms Deal

theatre, burlesque and vaudeville treats, the kids' Little Lounge area and some of the most refined, locally sourced, rustic refreshments to be found at any festival anywhere."

LOTF takes place at Merton Farm, Canterbury, from Friday, July 9, to Sunday, July 11.

A weekend adult ticket costs £95. Day tickets will be released next month.

For more information visit [www.loungeonthefarm.co.uk](http://www.loungeonthefarm.co.uk).



**SCENIC:** Enjoy a lesson in nature with walks and guided tours around the beautiful National Parks and coastline that New Zealand has to offer

# yourgetaways



## Unforgettable trip to Land of the Long White Cloud

■ BY VICTORIA MITCHELL

HAVING a towering, tattooed man press his nose against mine has to be one of the more unusual – and enjoyable – greetings I have experienced.

In New Zealand, this exchange meant I was no longer considered a visitor but rather as one of the people of the land.

The 'hongi', a traditional Maori welcome, made an interesting start to an unforgettable trip to the country also known as Land of the Long White Cloud, after an exhausting journey through several time zones, as Air New Zealand flights from Britain to Auckland on the North Island go via either Hong Kong or Los Angeles.

We eased the jet-lag with a 45-minute drive to the west of the city, to the dramatic coast of Karekare where thunderous waves pound the iron-black sand.

After a bracing walk along the dunes we headed to nearby Piha and the Waitakere ranges, a stunning wilderness area, for a lesson in nature, and even sampled some plants which provided nourishment for Maori in the past.

Our visit was rounded off with a hangi – a feast of meats and vegetables cooked using heated rocks buried in a pit oven, and it was a perfect introduction to New Zealand.

Auckland itself is superb for fine dining: one of the best restaurants is the award-winning Dine by world-famous chef Peter Gordon at Sky City Grand Hotel. Oysters, scallops and of course, lamb, adorn an eclectic menu.

Auckland is also known as the City of Sails, so our next adventure was

### FACT FILE: NEW ZEALAND

Victoria Mitchell flew as a guest of Tourism New Zealand with Air New Zealand which offers return flights ex-Heathrow from £884, incl taxes, until June 15, 2010. Details on [www.airnewzealand.co.uk](http://www.airnewzealand.co.uk) and [www.newzealand.com](http://www.newzealand.com).

Air New Zealand reservations: 0800 028 4149 and [www.airnewzealand.co.uk](http://www.airnewzealand.co.uk).

Operators to New Zealand include Austravel, which offers a nine-night Auckland, Rotorua and Napier self-drive tour from £1,599, which includes three nights' accom in Auckland (at SkyCity Grand), three nights in Rotorua and Napier, seven days' car hire and return flights with Air NZ. Price also includes day tour of Waiheke Island, a Maori village hangi and concert and a food and wine tour of Hawke's Bay.

For departures ex-Manchester and



Glasgow, add another £100 for return connecting flights to Heathrow.

Austravel reservations: 0800 988 4834 and [www.austravel.com](http://www.austravel.com).

sailing from the massive marina to Waiheke Island on a 50ft yacht.

Pride of Auckland operates a fleet of sailing yachts where visitors – under the watchful eye of an expert crew – experience the hands-on thrill of sailing in one of the world's most famous bays.

Huge gusts of wind might have tipped our boat over had it not been for the intervention of the skipper, so we arrived at the island's main jetty looking slightly bedraggled.

I was greeted warmly, however, by the delightful and informative guide Jenny, a retired midwife who personally delivered many of the 8,000 permanent residents on Waiheke.

The island, which can also be reached from Auckland by a 45-minute, and rather less eventful, ferry ride, is home to wineries, craft shops, beautiful gardens and beach-

es, and olive groves where tourists can sample some of the finest oil in the world.

Our next stop was the city of Nelson, on the northern shores of South Island, and at just under a two-hour flight from Auckland or from Hawke's Bay, it is said to be at the very centre of New Zealand.

I was there to experience a bit of outdoors adventure in the nearby Abel Tasman National Park.

Noel Kennedy, an expert guide from New Zealand Nature Tours plans a personal and authentic itinerary for the most discerning visitors.

To make the most of a visit to New Zealand, you really need to start planning in advance. Air New Zealand's route network includes 26 domestic destinations – covering North and South Islands – and people use the service like they would a bus.

## MOTORS NEWS



### Meriva opens wide for the second generation

VAUXHALL has opened the order book for its second-generation Meriva baby MPV.

Priced from £15,495 and in dealerships for June 18, it's wider, longer and more stylish, with a stepped rear window line plus a major talking point – rearward opening rear doors.

These 'FlexDoors' open to nearly 90 degrees, vastly improving entry, but it's parents who will see most benefit as they pilot the kids in and out and strap them into their seats, boosters and so on.



### Fair weather friends are out in force again

MOTOR market watchers like to play down seasonal price trends, but there's nothing like spring sunshine to boost prices for convertibles.

British Car Auctions (BCA), which has a site at Paddock Wood, has just staged a sale of 400 convertibles and sold the lot, many for prices higher than expected and ranging from less than £4,000 to over £50,000. A spokesman said the economy and election should have made people nervous, but the sale suggested optimism among trade and private buyers alike.



### Seat aiming to clean up on Scrappage variation

SEAT has followed up on the Government's official £2,000 Scrappage trade-in grant with a £2,000 saving on its cleanest and greenest Ecomotive models.

On top of that, says VW's Spanish arm, buyers also get to save even more thanks to the cheaper everyday running costs of cars like the Leon Ecomotive SE (pictured) with start-stop technology and energy recovery system.

With a lower sale price of £16,045 under the new scheme, buyers could also save more than £4,300 over a typical three-year/45,000-mile period.



DECEPTIVELY BIG: The hi-cube van design of Peugeot's Bipper Tepee means lots of legroom and the potential to carry loads of luggage as well as five people in decent comfort

# Postman Pat and the Popemobile by Peugeot

IT MAY be a while before anyone can announce 'I've got a Bipper Tepee' without fear of raising innuendo-laden eyebrows.

I prompted a few with Peugeot's new budget MPV, but at least it deflected the usual Postman Pat jibes against van-based people-movers like this, though it could not avoid: what's this – the new Popemobile?; how did you escape from Legoland?; and is this the latest Dyson vacuum cleaner?

Still, a Bipper buyer could have the last laugh with prices from £9,995 and, as it's a joint effort with Citroën and Fiat – their versions sell as the Nemo Multispace and Qubo respectively – it also handles tidily thanks to Fiat Grande Punto supermini underpinnings.

That is quite a bonus when the original hi-cube van design means dramatic headroom and the potential to carry loads of luggage as well as five people in decent comfort.

Tumble the split folding rear seats forward though or even remove completely and you have a space that can swallow a large chest of drawers and more.

## ROAD TEST PEUGEOT BIPPER TEPEE

■ BY STEVE LOADER

### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

This is helped by sliding rear side doors and a huge top-hinged tailgate that doubles as a rain shelter when loading and unloading or simply 'grandstanding' or picnicking at an event.

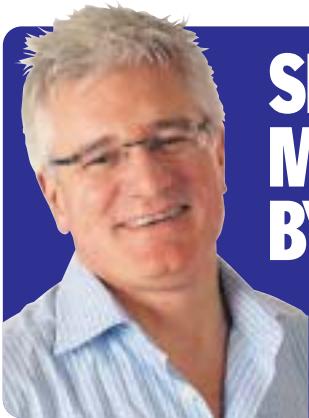
There is plenty of clever stowage too, but the van origins and budget pricing are betrayed by pop-out rather than wind-down rear windows, plus some painted metalwork and rubber floor covering, presumably so that you could hose out the footwells.

My car was a top-spec Outdoor HDi70 diesel (£11,795), which looks chunkier thanks to bigger side protection mouldings, lower front panel trim and standard-fit roof bars.

It also gains air con, front fog lights and – for the more rural-based owner – higher suspension and under engine protection.

It costs an extra £1,000 to have the 70bhp 1.4-litre turbodiesel instead of the 75bhp 1.4-litre petrol alternative and it needs nearly 18 seconds and a following wind to hit 60, but it will average around 60mpg and incur just £35/year road tax due to its low emissions.

The petrol is still no flier (0-62mph in 16.6 seconds), but saves a £1,000 upfront and every time you fill up, while still averaging more than 40mpg, but you pay £145/year road tax.



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2007 57 Astra Sri CDTi X Pack 1.9D 5 Ultra blue 17,325 9,995									
2008 08 Astra Design CDTi Auto 1.9D 5 Star silver 22,200 9,995									
2008 08 Astra SXi Sports Hatch 1.6 3 Silver lightening 24,300 9,995									
2008 58 Astra Sri CDTi X Pack 1.9D 3 Star silver 10,100 12,995									
2008 58 Astra Sri Ex Pack 1.8 3 Black sapphire 5,960 11,995									
2009 59 Astra Sri Sports Hatch 1.6 3 Ultra blue 5,800 11,995									
2009 1.6 5 Metro blue Del mileage 9,995									
2009 59 Astra Sri A/c 1.6 5 Star silver Del mileage 12,995									
2009 59 Astra Sports Twin top 1.8 2 Air blue 3,320 17,495									
2009 59 Astra Sri CDTi 1.9D 5 Power red 8,000 13,995									
<b>CORSA</b>	<b>VECTRA</b>								
Year Reg Model Eng Dr Colour M/age £	Year Reg Model Eng Dr Colour M/age £								
2006 06* Corsa SXi + 1.2 3 Flame red 57,600 4,995	2006 56 Meriva Life A/C 1.4 5 Steel blue 19,730 6,495								
2008 08 Corsa Breeze E/T 1.2 3 Flame red 10,125 7,995									
2009 09 Corsa Active 1.0 5 Star silver 6,270 8,995									
2010 59 Corsa SXi A/c 1.2 3 Flame red Delivery 10,995									
2010 59 Corsa Active 1.0 3 Flame red Delivery 9,995									
2010 59 Corsa Active 1.2 5 Ultra blue Delivery 10,995									
<b>IN SIGNIA &amp; SIGNUM</b>	<b>DUE SOON</b>								
Year Reg Model Eng Dr Colour M/age £	Year Reg Model Eng Dr Colour M/age £								
2009 09 Insignia Tourer Exclusive 1.8 5 Black sapphire 9,300 13,995	2002 02* Corsa Club E/T 1.2 5 Blue 37,000 3,195								
2009 09 Insignia S Tourer Exc CDTi 1.9D 5 Technical grey 5,300 16,995	2006 56 Corsa Design CDTi 1.3D 5 Flame red 37,000 7,995								
<b>MERIVA</b>	2007 07 Corsa Design 1.2 3 Metro blue 19,500 7,495								
Year Reg Model Eng Dr Colour M/age £	2008 07 Corsa Club 1.2 5 Flame red 26,000 7,295								
2006 56 Meriva Life A/C 1.4 5 Steel blue 19,730 6,495	2008 08 Corsa Breeze CDTi 1.3 3 Black sapphire 12,000 8,695								
	2006 06 Astra Active 1.6 5 Ultra blue 37,000 6,995								
	2007 07 Astra Club Auto 1.8 5 Panacotta 30,000 6,995								
	2008 08 Astra Sri 1.8 5 Black sapphire 19,500 9,495								
	2008 58 Astra Sri 1.6 5 Black sapphire 11,000 9,495								
	2009 09 Astra CDTi X Pack 1.9D 5 Star silver 10,000 14,995								
	2009 09 Agila Design 1.2 5 White 7,000 7,995								
	2009 59 Astra Active 1.6 5 Sovereign silver 4,000 10,995								
	2009 59 Astra Eco flex 1.7D 5 Sovereign silver 4,000 12,995								
	2010 59 Astra VXR 2.0 3 Arden blue 17,995								
	2009 09 Insignia Elite CDTi Nav 2.0 5 Sovereign silver 8,000 22,995								
	2009 59 Insignia Sri Nav 2.0 4 Black sapphire 8,000 17,995								
	2009 59 Insignia CDTi ECO Exclusive 2.0 5 Silver lake 5,000 17,495								
	2009 59 Tigra Air 1.4 2 Antigua 5,000 12,995								
	2007 07 Zafira Energy 1.6 5 Silver lightening 19,000 8,495								
	2009 59 Zafira Active CDTi+ 1.9D 5 Ultra blue 6,000 14,995								
	2009 59 Zafira Design CDTi 1.9 5 Panacotta 5,000 17,495								
	2009 58 Vectra Exclusive CDTi 1.9D 5 Silver 19,000 9,995								
<b>USED VANS</b>									
Year Reg Model Eng Dr Colour M/age £	Year Reg Model Eng Dr Colour M/age £								
2006 56 Combo PAS 1.3CDTi White 36,150 £4,995+VAT									
	2006 56 Combo CDTi PAS 1.3D White 13,960 £7,295+VAT								
<b>PRE-REG VANS</b>									
Year Reg Model Eng Dr Colour M/age £	Year Reg Model Eng Dr Colour M/age £								
2009 59 Vivaro SWB(115) 2.0D 5 White Delivery £11,995+VAT									
2009 59 Astravan 1.7D Club White Delivery £9,495+VAT									
<b>OTHERS</b>									
Year Reg Model Eng Dr Colour M/age £	Year Reg Model Eng Dr Colour M/age £								
2002 02* Skoda Fabia Auto 1.4 5 Black 50,750 3,995									

\*Non Network Q





Call one of our area specialists for details

Strood  
01634 226800  
Chatham  
01634 827766

Sittingbourne  
01795 410555  
Gravesend  
01474 888005

Rainham  
01634 377737  
Maidstone  
01622 808355

Walderslade  
01634 672227  
West Malling  
01732 617227

[www.greyfoxprestige.co.uk](http://www.greyfoxprestige.co.uk)

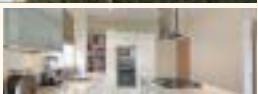
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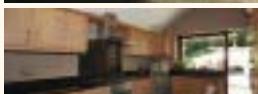


**Kings Hill**  
• 5 BEDROOM DETACHED HOUSE  
• 2 SPACIOUS RECEPTION ROOMS  
• MODERN KITCHEN/DINER  
• UTILITY ROOM & DOWNTAIRS CLOAKROOM



**£525,000**  
• ENSUITES TO 2 BEDROOMS  
• 2 FAMILY BATHROOMS  
• DOUBLE GARAGE & OFF ROAD PARKING  
• WALKWAY POSITION

REF: Prestige\_61446S



**Halling**  
• DETACHED HOUSE  
• 4 BEDROOMS  
• RIVER MEDWAY VIEWS  
• INDIVIDUAL DESIGN



**£499,995**  
• 3 RECEPTION ROOMS  
• DOUBLE GARAGE  
• VILLAGE LOCATION  
• KITCHEN OVERLOOKING GARDEN

REF: Prestige\_59901S



**Walderslade**  
• EXECUTIVE DETACHED HOUSE  
• 4 BEDROOMS  
• VILLAGE LOCATION  
• EN-SUITE



**£525,000**  
• 2 RECEPTION ROOMS  
• FAMILY BATHROOM  
• STUDY  
• DOUBLE GARAGE

REF: Prestige\_59897S



**Walderslade**  
• 5 BED DETACHED HOUSE  
• 2 BEDROOM DETACHED ANNEXE  
• 3 RECEPTION ROOMS  
• EN-SUITE TO MASTER



**£619,995**  
• SUN TERRACE  
• UTILITY ROOM  
• FAMILY BATHROOM  
• SHOWER ROOM

REF: Prestige\_59894S



**Higham**  
• SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION  
• 5 BEDROOM DETACHED HOME  
• 2 RECEPTION ROOMS  
• VERSATILE ACCOMMODATION



**£650,000**  
• SHOWER ROOM  
• 2 EN-SUITES  
• 1 BEDROOM DETACHED ANNEX  
• COUNTRYSIDE VIEWS

REF: Prestige\_59893S



**Isle of Harty**  
• 4 BEDROOM DETACHED  
• APPROX 2.5 ACRES  
• PADDOCKS  
• 2 RECEPTIONS



**OIEO £550,000**  
• RIVER VIEWS  
• STABLE BLOCK  
• STORE BARN  
• CELLAR

REF: Prestige\_59895S



**Iwade**  
• 5 BEDROOM DETACHED HOUSE  
• REFURBISHED THROUGHOUT  
• 1 BEDROOM ANNEXE  
• APPROX 26FT LOUNGE



**Guide Price £550,000 - £575,000**  
• HIGH SPEC KITCHEN  
• INDOOR SWIMMING POOL  
• GAMES ROOM  
• 3 GARAGES (2 DOUBLES)

REF: Prestige\_59896S



**Rochester**  
• DETACHED HOUSE  
• 6 BEDROOMS  
• VERSATILE ACCOMMODATION  
• 3 RECEPTION ROOMS



**OIEO £475,000**  
• SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION  
• UTILITY ROOM  
• DRIVEWAY  
• GARAGE

REF: Prestige\_59910S



**East Farleigh**  
• 3 DOUBLE BEDROOM DETACHED HOME  
• 2 RECEPTION ROOMS  
• POTENTIAL FOR ANNEXE  
• DOUBLE GARAGE & OFF ROAD PARKING



**£510,000**  
• CONSERVATORY  
• FRONT, SIDE & REAR GARDENS  
• VERSATILE ACCOMMODATION  
• VILLAGE LOCATION

REF: Prestige\_62058S

## New West Malling branch now open!

We are delighted to announce that our new Greyfox Prestige West Malling branch is now open.

If you are thinking about selling or letting your property and are looking for a boutique service with a bespoke approach, please give us a call to discuss your requirements.

Mill Yard, Swan Street, **West Malling**, Kent ME19 6LP

01732 617227



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KENT PROPERTIES ONLINE.COM

KENT HOUSE, ROMNEY PLACE,  
MAIDSTONE, KENT ME15 6LH

## Our easy to use website...

The screenshot shows the homepage of Kent Properties Online. At the top, there's a search bar with placeholder text 'Search for property' and a dropdown menu with options like 'Search by Postcode', 'Nearby Postcode', 'Postcode', 'Address', 'Nearest Postcode', 'Not searched', and 'Maidstone'. Below the search bar is a large image of a two-story brick house with a garden. To the left of the image is a sidebar with links to 'Home', 'About Us', 'Local Services', 'Property Search', 'Contact Us', 'Properties Allocated', 'Sell your Property', 'Local Links', 'Testimonials', 'FAQs', and 'Contact Us'. The main content area has a heading 'Welcome...' followed by a paragraph of text about the website's features and benefits. On the right side, there's a 'Quick Property Search...' section with a dropdown menu and a 'Search' button.

**Our new look website has been designed with one important thing...**

### "Ease of use" ...which means:

- **No** property search page that requires you to enter lots of criteria before you can see the properties on offer.
- **No** reason to contact lots of local branches talking to all different people, simply register your details and where you want to live.

### But it does mean:

- **Straight forward property searches.**
- **Your own login page to read viewing reactions and follow progress of your property 24 hours a day.**
- **Virtual tour and Colour floor plans \***
- **Online conveyancing quotes.**
- **Help, advice and local area information.**
- **Home Information Packs priced from £300.00 plus VAT**

Best of all, our website is created by Kent Properties Online, so you can rest assured that any information on our site is **up to date and relevant**.

\*Included with our Home Information Pack.

This screenshot shows a detailed property listing page. At the top, there's a large image of a house with a conservatory. Below the image, the property details are listed: 'MAIDSTONE', '£149,000', '3 Bed Townhouse', '3 Bed', '2 Bath', '2 Reception Rooms', '1 Conservatory', '1 Garage', and '1 Garden'. To the left of the details is a sidebar with a map and other property-related links. In the center, there's a 'Virtual Tour' button and a 'Colour Floor Plan' image. The main content area contains a large image of the house, a brief description, and a 'View Details' button.

**Maidstone office:** 01622 741 147

**Kent office:** 0845 309 272



**LOOSE**      **£379,500**

- 2 Reception Rooms and Study
- Kitchen/ Breakfast Room and Utility
- 4 Bedrooms and Double Garage



**MAIDSTONE**      **£380,000**

- 2 Reception Rooms
- Extended Kitchen, Dining Area
- 5 Bedrooms (Two in attic)



**MAIDSTONE**      **£200,000**

- Some modernisation required
- Three Bedrooms
- Approximately 185ft Garden



**MAIDSTONE**      **£225,000**

- Kitchen & Lounge/ Dining room
- 3 Bedrooms
- Garage and Driveway



**MAIDSTONE**      **£149,000**

- Some Modernisation Required
- 3 Bedroom Town House
- Garage & Gardens



**COXHEATH**      **£169,995**

- Kitchen & Lounge/ Dining room,
- 2 bedrooms
- Parking for 2/3 Vehicles



**MAIDSTONE**      **£175,000**

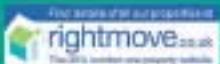
- Extended End Terrace
- 2 Reception Rooms + Conservatory
- 3 Bedrooms



**MAIDSTONE**      **£139,000**

- 2 Bedroom Maisonette
- Kitchen and lounge
- Separate Garden and Garage

**SELLING FEES:** VAT Based on No-sale, No-fee



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**Maidstone 01622 759891**  
maidstone@geeringandcolyer.com



**Sandling £399,950**

Detached chalet bungalow. Three/four bedrooms, garden with a southerly aspect and has a stream running through the bottom of the garden.

Maidstone Office

01622 759891



**Maidstone Offers in excess of £300,000**

Extended semi detached family home. Three bedrooms, bathroom, living room, sitting room/bedroom four & dining room. Garden

Maidstone Office

01622 759891



**Maidstone Offers in excess of £145,000**

Two bedroom first floor apartment. En-suite shower room to master, bathroom, lounge/dining room & kitchen. D/glazing, c/heating & allocated parking.

Maidstone Office

01622 759891



**Maidstone Offers in excess of £165,000**

Lounge, dining room, modern kitchen and cloakroom on the ground floor and 2 double bedrooms and bathroom on the first floor.

Maidstone Office

01622 759891



**Maidstone Offers in excess of £185,000**

Mock Tudor semi detached house. Kitchen, cloakroom, lounge, conservatory, three bedrooms & bathroom. Garage, driveway, & garden. C/heating & d/glazing.

Maidstone Office

01622 759891

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# HIP CASHBACK offer\*

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\*Terms & Conditions apply

propertywide.co.uk

**Maidstone Offers in excess of £210,000**  
Four bedroom town house. Fitted kitchen/diner, lounge, master bedroom with en-suite, bathroom & cloakroom. Garage, garden & driveway. D/glazing & c/heating.

**Ditton £224,995**



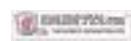
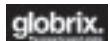
Three bedroom house with. Master with en-suite, family bathroom, 16' living room, downstairs cloakroom and an 11' fitted kitchen.

Maidstone Office

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# MANN Countrywide

## Sales

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### Bearsted

- Three bedroom chalet bungalow
- En-suite to master
- Conservatory
- Refitted bathroom
- D/glazing & c/heating
- Garden
- Garage & driveway parking

**£325,000**

CALL OUR GROVE GREEN OFFICE 01622 735513



### Detling

- Four/five bedroom detached
- 200ft rear garden with kennel block
- Off road parking, Semi rural location

**£399,995**

CALL OUR GROVE GREEN OFFICE 01622 735513



### Bearsted

- Three bedroom semi detached house
- Lounge/dining room, kitchen
- Refitted bathroom, conservatory

**£229,950**

CALL OUR GROVE GREEN OFFICE 01622 735513



### Weavering

- Three bedroom terrace house
- Middle of three to the front
- D.g., Rear garden, not over looked

**£199,950**

CALL OUR GROVE GREEN OFFICE 01622 735513



### Vinters Park

- Three bedroom end of terrace
- Double glazed
- Conservatory, Garage

**£195,000**

CALL OUR GROVE GREEN OFFICE 01622 735513



### Weavering

- Two bedroom terraced home
- Lounge, refitted kitchen
- Bathroom & conservatory/dining room

**£189,995**

CALL OUR MAIDSTONE OFFICE 01622 757213



### Coxheath

- Lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms
- Bathroom, D/glazing & c/heating
- Garden, garage & driveway

**£180,000**

CALL OUR MAIDSTONE OFFICE 01622 757213



### Maidstone

- Three bedroom semi-detached house
- Two reception rooms
- Off street parking, No onward chain

**£169,995**

CALL OUR MAIDSTONE OFFICE 01622 757213



### Maidstone

- Two bedroom end of terrace
- Retirement bungalow
- No chain

**£153,950**

CALL OUR MAIDSTONE OFFICE 01622 757213



### Maidstone

- Two bedroom house
- Lounge, extended kitchen
- Cellar & bathroom

**Asking Price £139,995**

CALL OUR MAIDSTONE OFFICE 01622 757213



### Maidstone

- Two bedroom flat
- Block of only four flats
- Close to local amenities

**£130,000**

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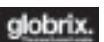
Call your local branch for details

\*Terms & Conditions apply

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# Bairstow eves

**Maidstone 01622 691554**

maidstone@bairstoweves.co.uk

**Countrywide**

**Maidstone**



**Offers in excess of £114,000**

Two bedroom flat, garage and driveway, woodland views, refitted bathroom. Viewing recommended.

**Maidstone**



**Offers Over £135,000**

2 bedrooms, kitchen and bathroom, a lounge/diner over 23ft in length between double aspect dormer windows.

**Linton**



**£149,995**

An older style character cottage. Sitting room, bathroom, kitchen, cellar, two bedrooms. Garden & parking.

**Maidstone**



**Offers Over £175,000**

Three bedroom family home. Lounge & kitchen/diner. Garden, off road parking & garage.

**Maidstone**



**£179,995**

Semi detached house. Kitchen, living room, conservatory, two bedrooms. Garden & off road parking.

**Maidstone**



**Offers in excess of £185,000**

Two bedroom terrace house. C/central heating, basement room, lounge, kitchen & dining room.

**Maidstone**



**Asking Price £249,995**

Three bed house. Lounge diner, kitchen, utility room, cloakroom, bathroom plus en suite to the master.

**Leeds**



**£324,995**

Four bedroom house. Reception room, conservatory, kitchen & bathroom.

**Lenham**



**Offers Over £485,000**

Five bedrooms, two bathrooms, 2 en suite shower rooms, three reception rooms, kitchen & utility room

**Boughton Monchelsea**



**Offers in excess of £575,000**

Six bed house. Lounge, dining room & kitchen. Garage

[www.bairstoweves.co.uk](http://www.bairstoweves.co.uk)

[www.mortgagescountrywide.co.uk](http://www.mortgagescountrywide.co.uk)



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### Sutton Valence

**£290,000**

A well presented three bedroom detached family home in popular location.

Spacious kitchen/diner, living room, conservatory, cloakroom. Master bedroom and two further bedrooms and family bathrooms. Good size rear garden, garage and ample parking on drive.

Web Ref: 759



### Boughton Monchelsea

**£475,000 to £525,000**

Substantial detached five bedroom family home offering 2,500 sq ft of accommodation located in convenient location.

Outbuilding with potential to convert to annexe accommodation (subject to PP).

Web Ref: 735



### Marden

**£1,500 pcm**

Detached four bedroom family home in a small close with good access to shops and station.

Two reception rooms, spacious kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, cloakroom. Rear garden, garage and ORP.

Available now.

Web Ref: 697



### Kilndown

**£950 pcm**

A newly constructed three bedroom family home with spacious open plan sitting/dining room with contemporary fitted kitchen.

Master bedroom en suite, two further bedrooms and family bathroom. Garden and ORP. Available Now.

Web Ref: 669

[www.connells.co.uk](http://www.connells.co.uk)  
[www.rightmove.co.uk](http://www.rightmove.co.uk)

Maidstone Branch



# Connells

Maidstone £139,950



- End of Terrace 2 Bed Home
- Modern Kitchen & Bathroom
- Lounge diner 23'10
- Garage, No Onward Chain

Kingswood OIEO £299,999



- Extended 4 Bed Detached
- Village Location
- Beautiful Rear Garden
- Sun Room, Off Street Parking

Maidstone £159,995



- Two Bed First Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Living/Kitchen Area
- Well Presented Throughout
- Two Balconies

Harrietsham £565,000



- Individually Designed
- Immaculate 4 Bed Detached
- Three Reception Rooms
- Stunning Kitchen

Sandling £230,000



- Delightful 3 Bed Detached
- En suite to Master Bedroom
- 15'7 Lounge, Pretty Rear Garden
- Good Access to the M20

Maidstone £187,500



- Three Bedroom Terrace
- Over 4 Floors
- Central Location
- No Onward Chain!

Platts Heath £294,950



- 4 Bed Detached Family Home
- Garage and Driveway
- Utility Room
- Village Location

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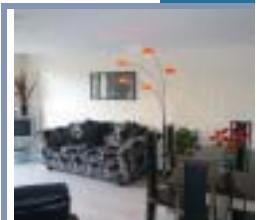
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Maidstone £144,500



- Ground Floor 2 Bed Apartment
- Patio Garden
- Open Plan Lounge/Diner
- Good Access for M20

Maidstone £324,995



- Well Presented 4 Bed Town house
- Lovely River Views
- Integral Double Garage
- Access to a Private Gym

Maidstone £274,995



- Beautiful detached property
- 3 beds/ Master with ensuite
- Delightful gardens
- Garage & driveway

Maidstone £189,995



- Three Double Bedrooms
- Good Size Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- Conservatory

Coxheath £250,000



- Two Bed Detached Bungalow
- Good Sized Plot
- Garage and Driveway
- Pleasant Gardens

Maidstone £209,995



- 3 Bed Semi Detached House
- Stunning Rear Garden
- Modern Kitchen & Bathroom
- Off Road Parking

Maidstone £169,995



- Three Bedrooms
- D.G. & Gas Central Heating
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Parking

Maidstone £229,950



- Detached 3 Bed Family home
- Cul De Sac location
- Garage & Driveway
- Conservatory

Maidstone £174,995



- Two Bed Ground Floor Apartment
- Master Bedroom With Ensuite
- Allocated Parking
- Garden, Very Well Presented

Maidstone £145,000



- Ground floor two bed apartment
- Ensuite to master bedroom
- Allocated parking
- Excellent Investment Property

East Farleigh £169,995



- Delightful 2 bed property
- Village Location
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- Open Plan Accommodation

Maidstone OIEO £189,995



- Two/Three Bedroom House
- Cellar Room/Bedroom Three
- Luxury Shower Room
- Very Well Presented Throughout

Public Notice

Property address : Flat 18 Mountfield Court Grove Hill Road, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, Kent, TN1 1SN  
By order of the mortgagees in possession, we would advise that an offer has been made for the above property in the sum of £135,000

Any person wishing to increase on this offer should notify the agents of their best offer prior to exchange of contracts.  
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Tel: 01622 751034

maidstone@connells.co.uk  
30 King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1BS

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- MANAGEMENT, SENIOR POSITIONS
- MARKETING, ADVERTISING

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#### Interested?

Please forward your C.V. and covering letter to Nicky Simmons, Head of H.R. Waters AutoPlanet, Bircholt Road, Parkwood, Maidstone, Kent ME15 9XY or email: [nsimmons@argltd.co.uk](mailto:nsimmons@argltd.co.uk) Full UK driving licence essential.

All applications are treated in the strictest of confidence. We are an equal opportunities employer.



## Psychological Therapist

£21,519 - £27,849 pro rata, pa plus Essential Car User Allowance of up to £1,170 pro rata, pa  
Full or part time (min 23 hpw) • Evenings may be required Based Ashford

KCA (UK) provides a wide range of high quality, innovative primary care mental health services, including Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT), part of our Psychological Therapy Providers (PTP) service. We offer a strong departmental framework with regular clinical supervision, line management, monthly team meetings and effective administration.

We require an experienced psychological therapist to work with adult clients in our well established service providing short term therapy within GP practices. The number of sessions and available working days will be negotiated to meet the needs of the contracted service.

You should be qualified to a minimum of diploma level in CBT, Psychodynamic Counselling or Couples Therapy. You should be eligible for either BABCP/BACP accreditation or UKCP registration. If you are currently employed by the NHS we will arrange for you to remain in the NHS pension scheme. If you are currently employed by the NHS we will arrange for you to remain in the NHS pension scheme.

For an informal discussion of the above post please contact Susan Wyles on 01233 639383 or 07725 433267.

An application form and job description can be downloaded from [www.kca.org.uk](http://www.kca.org.uk) or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference number 652.

Closing date: 7 May 2010. Interview date: 19 May 2010 in Ashford.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all. Charity No: 292824

[www.kca.org.uk](http://www.kca.org.uk)



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817040**

## Psychological Wellbeing Project Co-ordinator

£22,958 - £29,236 • 37 hours per week plus Essential Car User Allowance of up to £1,170 per annum  
Based Medway

KCA (UK) Psychological Therapy Providers and mcch society ltd are looking to recruit a Co-ordinator for an exciting new Psychological Wellbeing Project. 'Way to Wellbeing' will be an educational programme to reach out across Kent and Medway enabling both the general population and those who provide services to be better equipped to deal with emotional distress.

Activities will include a programme of large scale psycho-educational workshops and delivery of Mental Health First Aid Training. You will demonstrate a knowledge, understanding and experience of working with those experiencing emotional distress or mental health difficulties as well as providing groupwork, education or training. A sound knowledge of other local services including employment and IAPT services would also be desirable.

Whilst being employed by KCA (UK) you will be required to work closely with our partners for this project and would receive an induction into both organisations.

For an informal discussion regarding this role please contact Kerry Smith, Operations Manager on 07779 658886.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from [www.kca.org.uk](http://www.kca.org.uk) or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference number 658.

Closing date: 7 May 2010.

Interview date: 19 May 2010 at Medway PTP.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all. Charity No: 292824

[www.kca.org.uk](http://www.kca.org.uk)



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- An order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with these.
- Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the media owners belong to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the media owner's written consent.
- All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the advertiser, the media owner and the communities they serve within the public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions.

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We have a vacancy for an all round experienced Welder/Fabricator to carry out general fabrication duties including; drilling, tapping guillotine, grinding etc. Welding skills are essential - working with large stainless steel items, mild steel and having the ability to read and work to drawings. The ability to carry out press work would be an advantage.

To apply please send your CV to Amy Taylor;  
RJP Engineering Ltd, Pattenden Road, Marden, Tonbridge,  
Kent TN12 9QD or email ataylor@scara-sales.com

## Presland Care Ltd.

### 'Care Without Compromise'

Due to rapid growth we require

#### **Support Workers**

in Maidstone and the surrounding areas to work early mornings, evenings and weekends. Car drivers with own transport essential. Presland Care provides quality support to enable people to remain independent and live in their own homes.

**For an application pack contact  
Jane or Rita on 01634 673333.**

We are actively encouraging equal opportunities. Successful applications will be dependent on a clear Enhanced CRB check and two satisfactory references. Closing date for applications Friday 7th May 2010.

The John Wallis  
Church of England Academy  
(proposed)

## Director of Finance and Operations

**Salary range: £55,000 - £65,000**

Applications are invited for the above post at The John Wallis Church of England Academy, which will open in September 2010 replacing Christ Church School, Ashford. The Academy will cater for 1050 students aged 11-16 with a post 16 provision for a further 250 students.

This is an exciting opportunity to join a newly appointed Principal Designate as part of the Senior Leadership Team to lead this new academy which will move into new buildings in September 2013. Candidates must possess an appropriate relevant qualification, have executive management skills, proven financial management skills and strategic vision and experience of working at a senior management level. This post offers tremendous scope for initiative, flair and creativity.

**Closing date for receipt of application  
is 12 noon Wednesday 28th April**

Interviews will be held Tuesday 11th May 2010.

Further details and application pack from jireland@diocant.org or telephone 01227 459401. If you would like an informal discussion with John McParland, Principal Designate, regarding this post please call 07723 236444.

[www.proposedacademyforashford.org](http://www.proposedacademyforashford.org)



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## MidKent College

MidKent College is a large and successful College operating on two main campuses serving Medway and Maidstone. Our new, state of the art £86 million Medway Campus is located next to the Royal School of Military Engineering where the College trains soldiers under a very large construction and engineering contract. The College was graded 'good' overall with 'outstanding' Capacity to Improve at its Ofsted inspection in March 2009.

Following the retirement of two of our longest-serving managers, we are seeking to recruit dynamic, progressive and enthusiastic individuals to join our committed leadership team at the Medway Campus.

## Head of Faculty Advanced Engineering

**Salary: c£46k**

Manufacturing and Engineering have benefited from a substantial investment in new equipment and we are now looking to expand training opportunities within this area. In addition to providing effective management of the faculty, the successful candidate will be expected to lead on the development of STEM initiatives including a new Motor Engineering section.

## Head of Faculty Higher and Academic Studies

**Salary: c£46k**

Comprising the A Level, Access and Higher Education curriculum areas, this Faculty is based at both our new Medway Campus and at the nearby University of Kent which accommodates most of the Access and HE provision. The successful candidate will have a strong track record of leading within these curriculum areas and in improving outcomes for students.

**Closing date: Thursday 29 April 2010**

**Interview date: Friday 6 May 2010**

Benefits Include:

- Benenden Healthcare • Pension • Generous Annual Leave • Flexible working

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website [www.rbli.co.uk](http://www.rbli.co.uk) for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from [www.midkent.ac.uk](http://www.midkent.ac.uk). Alternatively, please e-mail [job.applications@midkent.ac.uk](mailto:job.applications@midkent.ac.uk). For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer

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**"WE GROW PEOPLE"**

Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

**We are currently looking for ...**

**Teacher for pupils with severe  
and profound learning  
difficulties to commence  
September 2010**

**MPS + 2 SEN Points + TLR 2C £2478  
(with previous experience)**

The school is located in pleasant surroundings and we have educational resources of enviable proportions. This post would suit newly qualified teachers or those wishing to gain further experience of SEN. Comprehensive induction and training will be provided. Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school welcomed.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

**Closing Date: 14th May 2010**

**Interviews will be held on 20th May 2010**

For further details and a job description, please contact Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.



**Assistant Manager**  
**Required For Residential Care Home**

**In Folkestone**

We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic and committed person. Must have minimum NVQ Level 3 qualification, and experience in caring for the elderly is essential.

Please call Miss Julia Carter (Home Manager) on 01303 254019  
Subject to satisfactory CRB Check

## PART-TIME CHARITY FUNDRAISER

Medway & Swale Advocacy Partnerships (MSAP) provides advocacy services to people suffering mental health issues and is located in Frindsbury.

We are looking for an experienced charity fundraiser to apply for funding for various projects that fall outside of our core funding. The successful applicant will be a self-starter with a proven track record of applying for grants. This will be a one day a week position with the possibility of further day(s) according to success rate.

Own transport would be desirable due location; however, not essential for the post. Criminal Records Bureau checks apply. For a job information pack, telephone 01634 713739 or e-mail medwayswale@btconnect.com Closing date for applications: 10th May 2010. Interviews: 25th May 2010.

KCA (UK) is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services in the drug, alcohol and mental health sectors.

## Community Drug Worker

£21,519 - £27,849 pa • 37 hours per week • Based East & West Kent & Medway

Could you help chaotic injecting drug users to stabilise their use and begin shaping better lifestyles? It is a big challenge that will see you work closely with medical staff as you deliver assessment and key worker support to people accessing the substitute prescribing service.

Significant experience of working with individuals with drug related problems is desirable. A qualification to diploma level in a relevant area – nursing, counselling or social work for example is essential. There is the opportunity to make a huge impact on people's lives and help grow our services into the future working as part of a multi-disciplinary team. Ref: 656.

Closing date: Friday 30 April 2010.  
Interview dates: 13 & 14 May 2010 in Maidstone.

## Administrator - Generic Structured Psychosocial Interventions (SPI) Service

£19,126 - £23,708 pro rata, pa • 15 hours per week • Based Canterbury

As an experienced and capable Administrator you will be able to work independently and provide efficient and high quality administrative support to KCA's Generic SPI service.

Working in a demanding environment, you should have excellent typing skills and be confident in your ability to use Microsoft Office to a high standard. As the author of the Generic SPI service's quarterly newsletter, you will be required to demonstrate a commitment to keeping up-to-date with the key issues within the field whilst also using your own creativity and innovative approach to communicate the success of the service to external organisations.

The ability to collate and input data accurately onto a database whilst managing spreadsheets on Microsoft Excel is essential. You will also be able to demonstrate an accomplished style of communicating effectively with a wide cross-section of other off-site professionals in a factual and concise manner. You need to be able to prioritise your own workload and respond appropriately to referrals within the service's targeted deadlines. Ref: 650.

For further information about the post, please contact the SPI Functional Specialist Lead - Toni Howes on 01227 454740 or the Administration Functional Specialist Lead - Christine Gordon on 01795 590795 ex 2.

Closing date: Friday 30 April 2010.  
Interview date: TBC.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from [www.kca.org.uk](http://www.kca.org.uk) or call 01795 590635. Please quote the relevant reference number.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity No: 29284

[www.kca.org.uk](http://www.kca.org.uk)

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**Admin Assistant/Receptionist required for June 2010**

Delce Children's Centre, Delce Infant School, Fleet Road, Rochester ME1 2QA

Tel 01634 844127  
Email: [office@delceinf.medway.sch.uk](mailto:office@delceinf.medway.sch.uk)



### Dance & Sports activities for Children (5-11 yrs) at After School Club sessions.

Do you have experience/qualifications of working with groups of children (5-11yrs) encouraging them to get involved in dance and/or sports activities? Are you available between 3-6pm on weekday evenings & during school holidays?

Salary £10 per hour, hours negotiable.  
This project is supported by BBC Children in Need.

All applicants are subject to an enhanced CRB check.  
Contact Kent Play Clubs for an application pack  
01233 713813 or email: [info@kentplayclubs.org.uk](mailto:info@kentplayclubs.org.uk)  
Closing date for applications 7th May 2010.

### Are you looking for experience working in a child-care setting?

Are you currently unemployed or seeking employment?

Kent Play Clubs has funding to provide volunteer work placements and support in improving job-seeking skills.  
Places are currently available for a 10 week course including 6 weeks gaining experience at an After School Club.

Gaining experience will improve your chance of securing employment.  
If you are interested, please contact Kent Play Clubs for an application pack.

This project is supported by the European Social Fund

### Senior Club Co-ordinator at St Michael's After School Club

We are looking for an enthusiastic, caring and responsible adult to work 2.45pm-6pm

MON to FRI (term time only), with relevant experience and NVQ level 3 qualification in childcare.  
Immediate start  
01233 713813 or email: [info@kentplayclubs.org.uk](mailto:info@kentplayclubs.org.uk)



CCL is a global print packaging manufacturer working in partnership with the largest consumer brands and pharmaceutical companies throughout the world.

## European Healthcare Marketing Coordinator

We currently have an exciting full-time opportunity based at our Ashford site for the above position. The main duties will include:

- The coordination and evolution of our European brochure
- Assisting the organising of and providing materials for European exhibitions
- The control and update of customer databases
- Liaising and communicating with all European Healthcare facilities with regards to marketing needs
- Promoting CCL throughout Europe
- The creation of new promotional/marketing material, and other related duties.

The successful candidate will be a motivated individual with previous experience in a Marketing role or be recently qualified. You will have a creative flair with a good eye for detail. It is essential to have excellent written, communication and presentation skills and be fluent in at least one other European language preferably French. It would be an advantage if you had experience of working in a manufacturing or pharmaceutical environment. This is a challenging and rewarding role working for a professional and progressive company.

**Closing date:** 7th May 2010. Please apply in writing enclosing full CV to:

Human Resources Manager, CCL Label (Ashford) Limited, Foster Road, Ashford Business Park, Sevington, Ashford, Kent, TN24 0SH Tel: 01233 503333 or email [gmorgan@cclind.com](mailto:gmorgan@cclind.com)

To advertise in this section

**01303 817040**



The Foreland is a day special school for 140 pupils with profound, severe or complex learning difficulties including some with autistic spectrum disorder.

## Teacher Vacancy KS3/4 Main Scale + 1 SEN Point Required for September 2010

We have a vacancy for a full-time class teacher to work with pupils aged 11-16 years. Class sizes range between 8 and 11 pupils, supported by at least 3 Teaching Assistants.

Experience of working with pupils with severe learning difficulties and/or ASD is desirable but not essential and applications will be welcomed from teachers wishing to transfer to this type of work. Induction training will be provided in school and there are opportunities to pursue specialist training courses. The ability to work with other disciplines and to manage a small team of your own teaching assistants is however required.

As a result of the review of special schools in Kent it is intended that the school roll will eventually rise to 165 and as a result "significant expansion" will be needed. Exciting plans for a complete rebuild of the school in conjunction with a rebuild of Hartsdown Technology College in Margate are underway via the Building Schools for the Future initiative. As our school changes flexibility in the school's organisation will need to be maintained. Candidates should therefore be aware that this post is an appointment to the school as a whole, not necessarily fixed in the current Key Stage.

If possible, interested persons should make an informal visit to the school in order to meet the Head of Department and find out more about the nature of the work involved.

The school also currently has 2 vacancies in the administration support team. Whilst the roles are distinctly separate there is a possibility that the 2 positions could be combined for a suitably qualified and experienced candidate.

## Data/Personnel Assistant 15 hours per week

## Inclusion Support and INSET Administrator 10 hours per week Salary scale Kent Scheme 5

Reporting to the School Business Manager you will be smart, cheerful and well spoken so that you project a suitable professional image of the school to the many people with whom you are in contact. Methodical and well organised you will set a good example to your colleagues, and you will be committed to team development and team working. The ability to maintain a positive working atmosphere within this small but busy team is essential, as is the need to share knowledge and skills with colleagues in order to increase the effectiveness of the team.

You will be proficient in the use of ICT and willing to explore a range of software with a view to making the school offices even more efficient and effective. Previous financial experience, including the ability to monitor and report on budget income and expenditure, is an essential quality for both positions, together with experience of delivering high quality, professional administrative support. Candidates will also need to be totally committed to working in a confidential and discrete manner due to the sensitive nature of many of the duties of the roles.

It is a specific requirement that candidates for the position of Personnel / Data Assistant will need to demonstrate previous experience or qualification in Personnel and payroll, including relevant personnel and recruitment legislation.

The Foreland School is committed to the safeguarding and well-being of children therefore all successful candidates will need to pass an Enhanced CRB check.

To arrange a visit to the school please telephone 01843 863891 and ask to speak to the School Business Manager or PA to the Head Teacher.

Requests for application packs should be made by email, quoting the position of interest to: [foreland@foreland.kent.sch.uk](mailto:foreland@foreland.kent.sch.uk)

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**TITLE CONTENDERS:** The Mote plan to cause an upset

# The Mote ready to compete for Premier title

## CRICKET

WITH the cricket season just over a week away, newly-promoted The Mote believe they have all the ingredients to launch a bid for the Kent Cricket League Premier Division title.

The Maidstone-based side secured a return to the county's top tier by finishing second in Division One last year and intend to compete at the top of the league this season.

Under the guidance of new club skipper Thomas Harvey, The Mote have kept the majority of last season's side together and Harvey is confident they can threaten the top end of the division this year.

He said: "Obviously the first goal is to stay in the

division, but we have put together a good side and we think we can challenge for the title. I think realistically we would be happy with a top-three finish. We haven't really added to the squad, but we had a really strong unit last year."

The Mote open the new season on May 8 at home to 2008 Premier League champions Hartley Country Club.

Also targeting another title are Addington Village who are aiming for a rare third successive promotion. Extensive work has been done to

improve the Division Three side's Park Road ground, while there are several new faces at the club. Potentially the most eye-catching is 19-year-old Namibia international batsman, Raymond van Schoor.

Skipper Neil Scott believes it could be another season to remember.

He said: "Last year we went through the league season undefeated and that's a massive boost going into the new season. Fingers crossed we can pick up where we left off – another promotion is definitely achievable."

Addington Village begin life in Division Three with a trip to Downham & Bellingham on May 8.

## HOCKEY



**CUP GLORY:** Maidstone (left) completed a stunning comeback to lift the Kent Hockey Cup for a third time

## Ladies triumph in a nail-biting final

### Holcombe 2 Maidstone 3

MAIDSTONE secured their third Kent Hockey Cup victory in four years after a narrow win against arch rivals Holcombe on Sunday.

Rachel Thompson's ladies 1st XI had to work hard for the victory by coming back from two goals behind to lift the Kent Cup once again.

With home advantage, Holcombe made a fast start to the game and took the lead after two minutes with a penalty corner. Maidstone struggled to get to grips with the pace of the game and fell further behind after conceding a goal from open play on 19 minutes.

The second goal seemed to spark Maidstone into life and they cut the deficit when Hannah Durston finished off a move started by Lizzie Daniels. As the game ticked towards half-time, Maidstone found an equaliser with a stunning flick from Claire Daniels.

The second-half saw both sides raise their game and it was Holcombe who looked the most likely to find the net again. Goalkeeper Jenny Vincent was forced to pull off a string of saves to deny Holcombe from taking the lead.

With ten minutes remaining, Maidstone managed to exploit a gap in the Holcombe defence and scored what proved to be the crucial winning goal, when Sue Leaning's pass was finished clinically by Maria Miles.

Holcombe battled hard to take the game into extra time, but Maidstone held on to clinch their third Kent Hockey Cup victory.

**PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT**  
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**RETURN:** Kent could make a return to The Mote in the future after county chairman George Kennedy (right) admitted his interest in bringing back the popular cricket festival week

# Is first-class cricket set to return to Maidstone?

## CRICKET

■ BY GLENN PEARSON

COUNTY cricket could be set to return to Maidstone in the near future with Kent chairman George Kennedy welcoming interest in taking the first-class game back to The Mote.

The club's second string played a game at The Mote in Maidstone last season, the first time a senior Kent side had played there following a points deduction in a County Championship game against Gloucestershire in 2005.

Kent's second XI are due back again this summer and with The Mote harbouring ambitions to upgrade facilities, including a new pavilion, a return could be on the cards.

Kennedy has been pleased with the reports about the pitch at Maidstone and said providing the upgrades are completed, he would be interested in resurrecting the popular Maidstone Cricket Festival.

"When [the facilities] get back to a proper standard then they will get absolute due consideration like anywhere else," he said. "If they are still at the planning stage then you've got to say it's looking like a couple of years, but as soon as they are ready there is every possibility that we would like to reinstate a Maidstone festival."

"The report on the pitch last season was good and that's why we are going back again this year. There is no problem whatsoever with playing conditions, but there are all sorts of health and safety issues about the state of the pavilion and the facilities in general. The truth of the matter is they are not up to county standard."

With Kent set to play a 'home' game at the



Brit Oval in this year's Friends Provident t20 competition, it's refreshing to hear Kennedy discussing a return to what in the past has been a popular cricket festival.

The Mote have plans to sell off some land, with the money used to upgrade their facilities which would include indoor nets.

Chairman Michael Cutler is hopeful of a return, but did say plans have been shelved temporarily as the club wait for the price of their land to increase.

He said: "There were plans to build a new pavilion which would go alongside us developing part of the ground. It's a long-term target at the minute as these plans have been put on hold due to the economic climate. The price of the land has gone down so we are waiting for that to rise again before anything is decided. We would love to have a new pavilion and it could help Kent cricket come back to the ground, but I don't think it's essential. We have done everything we can to get Kent first-team cricket back here."

Pictures ADY KERRY

# Stones end rollercoaster season on a high note

## FOOTBALL

■ BY YOURMAIDSTONE REPORTER

### Kingstonian 1

Gray 24



### Maidstone United 1

Hockton pen 68



WITH relegation avoided following last Thursday's 1-0 win against Bognor Regis Town, a confident Maidstone United side ended the season with a creditable draw at high-flying Kingstonian.

Peter Nott's side travelled to Kingsmeadow with only pride left to play for and put in a battling performance to end a rollercoaster Ryman Premier League season on a high note.

Despite a couple of early scares, the Stones threatened to take the lead inside the opening five minutes. Antonio Gonnella played in Adrian Stone, but the former Bromley striker could only place his shot over Rob Tolfrey's goal.

With what was the first attack on the visitor's goal, Kingstonian took the lead. A long diagonal ball into the Maidstone area was met by Matt Gray and he sent a looping header past goalkeeper Andy Walker.

Maidstone responded well to going a goal



**WINLESS STREAK:** Danny Hockton converted a penalty to earn Maidstone United a point on the final day of the season

behind and had two opportunities to net an equaliser shortly after. First Danny Hockton blazed over when well-placed, then Stone struck the post after latching on to Ant Bodle's teasing cross.

The Stones ended the half the stronger of the two sides with Gonnella coming close to leveling the score at the break. A Roland Edge free-kick cannoned against the Kingstonian wall and fell at the feet of the winger and his low drive forced a smart finger tip save from Tolfrey.

Kingstonian started the second-half strongly and went close to extending their lead just before the hour mark when Gray's corner found Christian Jolley, but he could only direct

his header narrowly wide.

The game took a twist on 68 minutes as the Stones found an equaliser via the penalty spot. Rob Lyall's shot struck a hand in the Kingstonian area and the referee immediately pointed to the spot. Hockton calmly converted the penalty to restore parity.

After hauling themselves back into the game, Maidstone had to see out the final 16 minutes of the game with only ten men. Chris Saunders picked up a second yellow card and was shown his second red card of the season.

Despite the man advantage, Kingstonian were unable to find a winning goal, leaving Maidstone to end another difficult season with a positive point.

## FOOTBALL



Picture COLIN READ

**CRUNCH TALKS:** Peter Nott hopes to become Maidstone United manager on a permanent basis

## Nott does chances of keeping United job no harm at all

AFTER steering Maidstone United away from relegation, manager Peter Nott hopes to be given the green light this week to continue his spell in charge of the first-team.

The former Maidstone United reserves manager was promoted to take over as first-team boss following the departure of long serving duo Alan Walker and Lloyd Hume mid-way through the season. This week Nott and assistant boss Tony Cornwell are due to hold talks with chairman Paul Bowden-Brown to discuss their future at the club.

Last Thursday's 1-0 win against Bognor Regis Town mathematically secured the Stones' place in the Ryman Premier League and Nott hopes to continue to take the club forward next season.

He said: "The chairman has taken a big chance with myself and Tony and I like to think we have repaid their faith up to this point by keeping the club up. We are both Maidstone through and through and hope to be involved in the management of the club next season. We go into the meeting with a positive mindset and once talks are over, we can begin to prepare for next season."

Nott's first taste of senior management has been a baptism of fire as he has had to cope with a fixture back log, players leaving, building a new squad and a relegation dog fight. But he admitted he feels all the better for it after coming through a difficult season in avoiding relegation.

He said: "We have come in mid-way through and had to deal with problems on and off the pitch and we've come through them. I could have done without players leaving and having to build another squad in my first senior management role, but we have come through that. I feel stronger for it."

Nott's already spoken to players he wishes to keep for next season and plans to strengthen the club's strike-force in the summer.

## FINAL LEAGUE TABLE

### RYMAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
C Dartford	42	29	6	7	+56	93
2 Sutton United	42	22	9	11	+20	75
3 Aveyley	42	21	7	14	+21	70
4 Boreham Wood	42	20	8	14	+10	68
5 Kingstonian	42	20	8	14	+4	68
6 Wealdstone	42	17	14	11	0	65
7 Hastings United	42	18	9	15	+12	63
8 Tonbridge Angels	42	18	8	16	+2	62
9 AFC Hornchurch	42	16	13	13	+4	61
10 Hendon	42	18	6	18	+2	60
11 Horsham	42	16	8	18	-2	56
12 Tooting & Mitcham	42	15	10	17	-4	55
13 Billericay Town	42	14	12	16	+2	54
14 Harrow Borough	42	13	14	15	+3	53
15 Cray Wanderers	42	14	9	19	-16	51
16 Canvey Island	42	13	11	18	-5	50
17 Carshalton Athletic	42	12	13	17	-6	49
<b>18 Maidstone United</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>-18</b>	<b>49</b>
R Margate	42	11	12	19	-22	45
R Ashford Town (Middx)	42	11	11	20	-18	44
R Waltham Abbey	42	12	8	22	-25	44
R Bognor Regis Town	42	9	14	19	-20	41



**BOOST:** Scott Smart hopes a trouble-free weekend will elevate his position in the British Superstock Championship

## Riders build on confidence

### SUPERBIKES

MAIDSTONE superbike riders Scott Smart and Tom Weeden hope to build on promising performances last time out as they head to Cheshire's Oulton Park this weekend.

British Superstock rider Smart recorded his best finish of the new season with an impressive fifth place at Thruxton two weeks' ago. However, this Bank Holiday weekend he will be targeting much more.

The 34-year-old is steadily improving after a slow start to the season at Brands Hatch, but mechanical problems in qualifying severely damaged his hopes of a rostrum place at Thruxton.

The former British Superbike Championship rider will pray for a trouble-free weekend at Oulton Park to boost his eighth place in the rider standings.

Maidstone Grammar School boy, Weeden, came agonisingly close to securing his first podium finish of the season at Thruxton. The 16-year-old crossed the line fourth in class and 11th overall. After a strong race at the last round, he is confident he can go one better at Oulton Park.

He said: "Despite not finishing in the top ten like I'd hoped to and narrowly missing out on the podium spot, many positives can be drawn. Qualifying on the second row felt really good and it has boosted my confidence hugely. Usually I qualify poorly and leave myself with a lot of hard work to do. I have proven to myself that I do have the pace to be up in the top ten."

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Gills boss Mark Stimson on the club's vital last two games of the League One season

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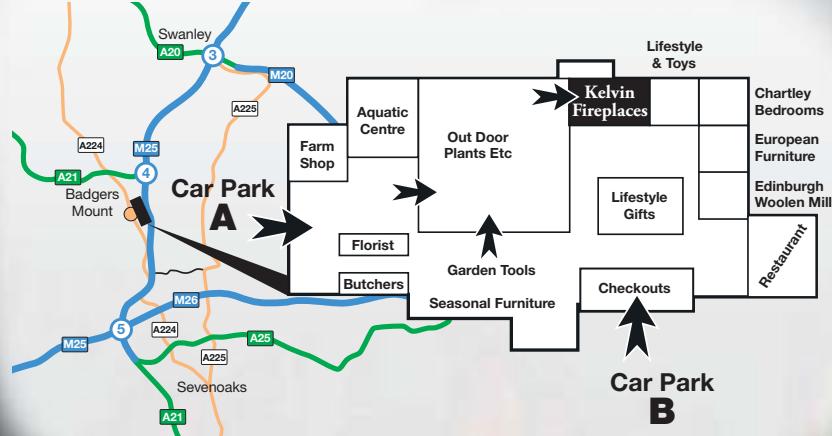
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